

WORLD EVANGELISM FUND THANK OFFERING

PLANNING GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

The Church of the Nazarene's annual Thank Offering for the World Evangelism Fund provides the opportunity to celebrate the gifts God has given us, while focusing on giving to others.

We must fix our sights on places where the church is not yet, engaging in intercessory prayer, sacrificial giving, and physically going to and mobilizing others to reach those who have yet to hear the gospel.

This guide is designed to help your church promote the Thank Offering for the World Evangelism Fund, to encourage your congregation to give out of thankfulness and send the message of the gospel into areas where "the church is not yet."

This Planning Guide includes:

- Tips on how to use the available resources to promote the offering
- Suggested timeline for talking about the offering with your congregation
- Customizable scheduling tool for pastors and church leaders

There are many other resources available to you though nazarene.org/generosity, the official website of the 2017 Thank Offering, including:

- Video
- Logo
- Personal stories of gratitude, generosity, and the World Evangelism Fund

nazarene.org/generosity

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations." – Matthew 28:19a



- Children’s activity sheets
- Posters
- Bulletin inserts
- Bookmarks
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Social media and electronic resources

TIPS FOR HOW AND WHEN TO USE THE THANK OFFERING RESOURCES

The Thank Offering for the World Evangelism Fund will be received on 19 November 2017 globally, and 8 October 2017 in Canada. However, many regions and districts worldwide choose to have their offerings on other dates. If you are unsure of when your church should receive the Thank Offering, please contact your local district or field office.

By reviewing the available resources early and planning carefully, you can lead your congregation into a time of prayerful remembrance and giving. This offering is not about how much we give; it is about our gratitude to God and our willingness to respond to His blessings.

There are many ways for you to use the available Thank Offering resources. Be creative! You can change your order of service on the day of the offering, distribute invitations to your community or create small group Bible studies for the month of the offering. Every resource can be adapted to fit the unique personality of your congregation.

Here is one potential timeline for promoting the offering in your church:

Immediately

Explore—Explore nazarene.org/generosity, the official website for the offering. Links are available at the top of the page for resources in English, Spanish (Español), Portuguese (Português), French (Français) and Korean (한국의).

Download—Click on the “Resources” or “Stories” tab to view the material available for download. You may download items individually or click on the “All-in-One Download” to download all the print resources. Stories may be downloaded from the Stories page. A video download is also available. *Keep in mind that the “All-in-One Download” is a sizable download and may take a while, even with a fast connection.* If your connection is slow, perhaps ask someone else to help you download the resources.

Examine—Read all of the documents and resources, especially those that pertain to leaders.

Plan—Gather your pastoral staff and NMI council to begin planning. Look at the materials, watch the videos and distribute the appropriate resources to the individuals who will be responsible for them.

Suggested Distribution Plan:

All leaders:

- Planning Guide

Pastor:

- Planning Guide
- PowerPoint presentations
- Stories of gratitude and generosity

Children's leader:

- Children's activity sheets

NMI council and other church leaders:

- Posters
- Bulletin inserts
- Bookmarks
- Logo
- World Evangelism Fund envelopes

Early Preparation

- Make plans for events using the customizable scheduling tool on page four.
- Print resources for distribution.
- Pray for generosity and a heart for spreading the hope of the gospel in yourself and in your congregation.
- Follow Stewardship Ministries on Facebook, Twitter and/or Instagram so you can share announcements and updates over social media. Use the hashtag #ThankOffering when posting.

Note: For churches with no access to a printer, we will print and ship the resources free of charge. Please contact Stewardship Ministries at stewardship@nazarene.org or 1-800-544-8413.

Month of Offering

Week 1

- Announce Thank Offering theme
- Share one of the generosity stories (nazarene.org/generosity)
- Show PowerPoint slides before or during service

Week 2

- Distribute children's activity sheets
- Distribute bookmarks
- Share one of the generosity stories (nazarene.org/generosity)
- Show PowerPoint slides before or during service

Week 3

- Celebrate Thank Offering for the World Evangelism Fund
- Present Video (nazarene.org/generosity)
- Receive Thank Offering
- Show PowerPoint slides before or during service

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SCHEDULING TOOL

Item	Person Responsible	Date	Location
Bookmarks		Copy/Print on: Distribute on:	
Posters		Copy/Print on: Distribute on:	
Bulletin Inserts		Copy/Print on: Distribute on:	
Children's Activity Sheets		Copy/Print on: Distribute on:	
PowerPoint Presentation		Present on:	
Video		Present on:	
Generosity Stories		Present on:	
Receive the Offering		Receive on:	

nazarene.org/generosity

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