

MONTHLY EMPHASES 2024

By Raquel Ramos



NAZARENE DISCIPLESHIP
INTERNATIONAL
MESOAMERICA REGION



MONTHLY EMPHASES 2024

Theme: 2023-2027

By His Grace...discipleship is a journey of learning and growth, and accompanying others along life's path.

WAY, TRUTH, LIFE

5 Core Principles for NDI

1. Fervent Prayer
2. Compassionate Outreach
3. Comprehensive Biblical Learning
4. Intentional Mentoring and Equipping
5. Authentic Relationships

Our core values

We are a Christian people.
We are a holy people.
We are a missional people.

God has given us a mission that transforms the culture and the way of evangelizing, through discipleship, worship, compassion, education, and leadership.

As we walk the path of Grace together, we help each other to be more like Jesus and are reformed or recreated to serve more in the image of Christ, relating to the weak, poor, vulnerable, and giving recognition and dignity to each one.

Are you seeking out people like Jesus did? Consider the search; don't stop searching; believe in God's call. Refocus, leave the church and bless the community. Bring people to Jesus and turn them into Christ-like disciples.

May our emptiness of power lead us to create a foundation of prayer, knowing the Scriptures and their Power. You have a mission; you are sent. You are in charge of the history of the world and you have to trust and submit to change the history of people and your community!!

But I urge you to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully and wholeheartedly, remembering the great benefits He has provided for you.

1 Samuel 12:24

With love: Raquel Ramos

HOW TO WORK WITH THE EMPHASES

- ◇ Read the entire document in detail with your NDI team.
- ◇ The Pastor and councils are to organize the dates to present each emphasis in their local Church.
- ◇ The NDI President and secretary are to coordinate so that each ministry leader participates with the appropriate emphasis.

MONTH	EMPHASIS	LEADERS / ORGANIZERS
January	<i>Fervent Prayer</i>	NDI - NMI - NYI
February	<i>Outreach and Discipleship</i>	NYI – NMI - NDI
March	<i>Women</i>	Director of Women’s Ministry - NYI
April	<i>Children</i>	Children’s Ministries, NMI - NYI
May	<i>Family</i>	NDI - NYI - NMI
June	<i>Men</i>	Director of Men’s Ministry - NYI
July	<i>Marriages</i>	Director of Children’s Church, NDI Council
August	<i>Youth</i>	NYI – NDI
September	<i>Bible Understanding</i>	NDI – NYI - NMI
October	<i>Fullness of life (Senior Adults)</i>	NDI - NMI
November	<i>Unity and Thanksgiving</i>	NDI - NYI - NCM
December	<i>Special needs ministry</i>	NDI - NYI - NCM

2024 CALENDAR OF THE MONTHLY EMPHASES

JANUARY: FERVENT PRAYER

Theme: Foundation and Starting Point

Text: Hebrews 4:16 - *“Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.”*

Purpose: To make possible the spiritual awakening of the believer, which affects their life, family, church and community.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Pray fervently for a spiritual awakening, through agreement and unity, through vigils, evenings, extraordinary meetings, etc.
- Vocalize all our weakness, insufficiency and total dependence on God for all our efforts, supporting our prayer with fasting.
- Release the power and authority of God by listening to and talking to God.
- Meet with all the workers to learn about and discuss the “Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) Bylaws,” walking through the Mission, Vision, Purposes and local Strategies with everyone.
- Develop strategies and pray fervently for the smooth functioning of the NDI emphases.
- Intentionally train all NDI workers and follow up with them in their work throughout the year.
- Encourage each other to have authentic relationships with each other that promote teamwork and unity.
- May your requests to God be deep, refocused and full of passion in such a way that circumstances and the people who pray will change.

FEBRUARY: OUTREACH AND DISCIPLESHIP

Theme: Called to be witnesses of Christ

Text: Ephesians 2:4-5 - *“But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”*

Purpose: In everything I do, I will proclaim the virtues of the Kingdom of God as the hope of life.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Pray fervently that in the Christian community, there will be a burden for the broken and joy in service.
- Look for ways to serve with intentionality through kindness, patience, hope, humility, gratitude, generosity, etc., establishing bonds of trust, that is, authentic relationships that show the love of Jesus through our lifestyle.
- Use the “Growth Campaign” provided by our Region in the Discipleship Ministries Resource Folder (Carpeta) 2024.
- Involve the congregation in a training and visitation plan to share the truth of Jesus with those in need.
- Choose a community park to give a special dinner to homeless people or immigrants.
- Organize a visit to an orphanage, nursing home, pregnant women's center, addiction center, etc., where you can bring hope, service and divine grace.
- Provide a homework workshop, library, video-game competition, or board games in order to reach adolescents, young people, and the disabled in your neighborhood or community through the service.
- Plan Sports projects in the community.
- Offer community workshops: homework, parenting, crafts, trades, daytime assistance, nutrition, etc. for children, women, young people, men or married couples and the elderly.
- Prepare the church to receive new people: welcome them at the door and serve them in special groups, provide fellowship and discipleship opportunities for them.

MARCH: WOMEN

Theme: Women in the world today

Text: 1 Peter 1:13 - *“Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming.”*

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Help the ladies discover that the misuse of the tongue, the greed of the eyes and the arrogance of life are contrary to gentleness, righteousness, piety and self-control.
- Face the challenges of a fractured society by establishing bridges of love: being available to help others, establishing and maintaining healthy relationships, serving, comforting and teaching other women.
- Passionately reaching out to Christless ladies through:
 - A conference, workshop, meeting, or congress in order to invite other women.
 - Cook for those who are in the hospital, have recently given birth, workers with small children, ladies in financial need, or someone who has had a loss.
 - Create workshops on reading, parenting, home economics, cooking, crafts, self-employment, pregnancy and motherhood for women in the neighborhood.
 - Open home groups with different interests: widows, single mothers, divorced women, addicts, people struggling with depression, mothers with disabled children, etc.

APRIL: CHILDREN

Theme: Growing in Christ

Text: 2 Peter 3:18 - *“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.”*

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Establish security policies for the Children’s Ministry (check out the “NDI Protection Policy for Children, Youth, and People with Special Needs.pdf” available in the Discipleship Ministries Resource Folder (Carpeta) 2024 or on the NDI Mesoamerica website – www.NdiResources.MesoamericaRegion.org)
- Train children's leaders to go from grace to grace, to be the shepherd that the little ones need in their daily lives that are full of broken emotions and challenges, abandonment and loneliness (Intentional Mentoring and Training).
- Hold a special service to celebrate the value of children (article 903.19 of the Manual “The value of childhood and youth”); invites children to sing, pray, lead, collect the offering, witness and/or preach.
- Attract new children through engaging and uplifting activities to spend fun times together.
- Invite the children to the altar so that the pastor, teachers and parents can pray for them.
- Provides ideas to parents to promote the spiritual formation of their children.
- May all children's workers lead children to their decision for Christ

MAY: FAMILY

Theme: We celebrate His grace in our family!

Text: 1 Peter 5:10 - *“And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”*

Purpose: To be thankful that despite the difficulties and needs of life, the grace of the Lord is enough.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Motivate families to return to making their family a God centered family, since it is primarily within the family that our children are formed and become men and women of God.
- Invite some brothers or sister to testify about divine grace in family storms (in person, videos or audios to present at the service).
- Motivate families to witness to unsaved families about the works of God in their home and lives, throughout the time that they have known Him.
- Encourage each family to have family devotions/Bible Study at least one day a week. The church can provide creative and interesting ideas for this time.
- Organize a family “day”, “weekend” or “week” where everyone can celebrate families and give thanks for God's grace and restoration.
- Have a special time to pray for each family.
- Reward the family that attends the discipleship and worship service in full every Sunday.
- Display photographs of each family at the beginning of the month and give them to the families at the end of the month.

JUNE: MEN

Theme: Divine grace strengthens men for every good work.

Text: 2 Timothy 2:1 - *“You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.”*

Purpose: Renew the manly commitment to be a worthy testimony of divine strength and grace.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize the men’s ministry: MIG (Men in the Image of God). See the Organization Manual in Carpeta 2024.
- Invite each husband to hold a “family home evening” one day a week and offer ideas for spiritually ministering to their family.
- Encourage men to form a small group or choir to participate in singing in worship.
- Form a group that visits the incarcerated, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, etc. to bring the good news, prayer, words of encouragement, counseling, afternoon games, haircuts and items that meet needs such as food, soap, toothpaste, and clothing.
- Organize men’s activities like hikes, fishing, hiking, bicycle or motorcycle rides, sports activities, and service projects that show the grace of Christ through the service and friendship that must prevail among all.
- Open a specific conference space for men that can function as a support group for men in the neighborhood with different anxieties and/or needs.

JULY: MARRIAGES

Theme: Holy marriages in difficult times

Text: 2 Timothy 1:9 - *“He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time.”*

Purpose: Strengthen the work in one's own family, in the church and in the community, focusing all actions on the spiritual life of the couple.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Organize the Marriage Ministry for couples. See the Organization Manual in Carpeta 2024.
- Pray fervently for marriages so that they will remain firm in God and nothing will destroy them.
- Teach new couples in Christ to achieve total dependence on Him.
- Have a sermon series that emphasizes holiness in marriage.
- Organize a meeting for couples: coffee, breakfast, movie, dinner, picnic, etc.
- Provide tools for growth in grace: devotionals, audios, books, videos, workshops, talks, studies, monologues, dramatizations, conferences, retreats, camps and preaching.
- Invite unconverted couples to these activities so that they can observe and feel divine grace acting in their lives.

AUGUST: YOUTH

Theme: A model of life and faith

Text: Titus 2:11-12 – *“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age.”*

Purpose: To help the youth to believe every day in Jesus and the importance of being like him, reaching others and establishing authentic relationships with them.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Establish a discipleship plan that serves young people comprehensively, following up on their needs.
- Look for mentors who will accompany young people, giving importance to their needs and care about their well-being and care.
- Encourage each young person to maintain and strengthen their relationship with God through spiritual disciplines: praying, reading and meditating on the Word, fasting, etc.
- Include the youth in the ministries and activities of the church, giving them opportunities to serve.
- Integrate unconverted and/or new young people into the church or circle of friends (adolescents, young people, professionals, sports, etc.); where they participate and feel loved, challenged and important.
- Establish a homework workshop, library, video-game competition, or board games in order to reach adolescents, young people, and the disabled in your neighborhood or community through the service.
- Involve the entire church in fervent prayer for the needs and challenges of young people.

SEPTEMBER: BIBLICAL LEARNING

Theme: The Word lives and give life

Text: Hebrews 4:12 - *“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”*

Purpose: Sensitize the congregation to the systematic and daily reading of the Bible, the Word of Life.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Decorate the walls with posters or a large piece of paper (blank) so that each person can write a reason why reading the Bible is important.
- Share with the congregation during the month of the celebration or throughout the year a phone app, reading plans, devotionals, Bible studies, audios, podcasts, dramatized Bibles, whether on a Theme, a book or time of year. Include the App for children.
- Buy Bibles, New Testaments, tracts and children's materials and give them as gifts in the community.
- Organize through the Children's Ministry director a Children's Bible Quizzing ministry.
- Organize Bible contests for all ages and levels: questions about a Theme or the entire Bible, memorization of chapters, Bible management, dramatization of passages, acrostics, art, musical composition or poetry, etc. (These can be found in the Children's Bible Quizzing books in the Resource Website: www.NdiResources.MesoamericaRegion.org)
- Organize an exhibition with inherited Bibles or family stories and transmit them to young people.
- Celebrate Bible month, receiving and sending a special offering to support the Bible Society and Bible League.

OCTOBER: FULNESS OF LIFE

Theme: Sharing my faith with new generations

Text: Acts 20:24 - *“However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”*

Purpose: Recognize the legacy that the elderly leave to new generations by living by the grace of God and sharing it.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Conduct a survey or census to find out how many elderly people live in the community where the church is located.
- Visit the people that you locate to start a Bible study and if possible share a light lunch with them.
- Open a class, a weekday meeting, a monthly meeting (Fullness of Life Senior Adult ministry) for the elderly where they can feel accepted and useful.
- Encourage seniors to share their faith with their unsaved children and grandchildren.
- Create spaces in the church for the elderly to share their wisdom, their faith, their example of life and their dependence on God in prayer.
- Gather their requests and pray fervently for them.
- Visit the elderly of the church and neighborhood, helping with buying groceries, cleaning the house, or delivering personal cards or notes, sharing God's grace.
- Plan special activities for the elderly in the church (birthday celebrations, prayer times, short walks, etc.)
- Present a profile of the elderly of the church, narrated or with videos or photos during the different stages of their lives. Complete this time with a special message.
- Involve the senior adults with the young people, adolescents and children, to advise, pray, walk through life with them, bless them, teach a trade or share a biblical reflection or their testimony of “a life full of grace”
- Organize older adults to pray, visit others and witness to their neighborhood or community of their walk with the Lord

NOVEMBER: UNITY AND THANKSGIVING

Theme: Abundance of Thanksgiving

Text: Numbers 6:24-26 - *“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.”*

Purpose: To have a special time to thank God for what He has given us through his love and favor, and ask him to help us follow Him in obedience.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Plan and carry out the “Thanksgiving Festival of Plenty” for life, for health, for family, for salvation and for invited friends.
- Make a special banner for the Festival, share it publicly and rejoice in the Lord. Use different fabrics and designs to show all the reasons to thank God.
- Honor the new people, new converts or new members that resulted from that beautiful work at NDI.
- With the help of the entire church, collect food or prepare simple dishes to donate to vulnerable people, as a sign of God's unmerited favor.
- Make cards or small souvenirs to give to guests and church families attending the Festival.
- Take advantage of the opportunity this year gave you to launch a “compassionate ministry,” and in coordination with NCM, identify a service project that meets a specific need for the next year.
- Organize a special meeting with all NDI workers, to testify of their struggles, fears, victories and gratitude, and thus maintain the communion and gratitude of the Council.
- Evaluate this year's work, celebrate achievements and plan for the future.

DECEMBER: MONTH OF DISABILITIES

Theme: Go out, find, help, sustain

Text: Luke 14:21 - *“Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.”*

Purpose: Open your mind and heart to let in the light of equality, solidarity and commitment to the weakest.

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES:

- Make sure that all NDI workers know about disabilities and ministries directed toward those with special needs and their families.
(<http://www.ndiresources.mesoamericaregion.org/> and search for “Gift of Love” in children’s ministries and NDI Manuals).
- Detect the needs of families and people with special needs (if you don't know of someone, carry out a census or survey in your neighborhood).
- Approach them without fear and without preconceived ideas.
- Promote eye contact, but without insisting.
- Treat them naturally and with a lot of affection.
- Be interested in their abilities and needs to integrate them into the church.
- Carry out a service project for a person or persons with a disability and their family in the community or neighborhood.
- Open a support group with comprehensive support activities for families.
- Facilitate full access for those with physical disabilities: parking, bathrooms, ramps, visibility, Bibles with large print or audio, sign interpreter, classrooms, etc.
- Provide pastoral care for families with members with major disabilities, caring for them at home, when they cannot leave home (children, young people and adults).
- Give a “mother's day off” taking care of her disabled child.
- Share your profession: if you are a teacher, physiotherapist, speech therapist, psychologist, sports coach, nurse, bricklayer, musician and have a passion for serving people with disabilities.