



"LINKS"

Connecting Churches with Missionaries

What is links?

LINKS is a network of personal connections between missionaries and Nazarene districts around the world.

Participating missionaries are assigned to the districts and then, at the district level, they connect to the local churches. In this way, each Church in a District of the Nazarene family is praying for a specific missionary or missionary family.

How do you start LINKS?

This program began in the Southern California District in 1916. The idea was to send boxes of personal supplies to missionary families, pray for them, write letters, provide cash for personal needs, remember missionaries and their children in birthdays, Christmas and anniversaries.

In 1921, the first package of missionary photographs was published and Ada Bresee was appointed LINKS' first secretary.

The box project grew until, in 1922, a "Box Working Committee" was appointed, consisting of three people and Ada Bresee as president.

In 1976, the LINKS program was introduced, expanding Cash Work to the "Adoption" of a missionary or an active or retired missionary family.

Our LINKS missionaries need our prayers, for them it is gratifying to know that there is a Nazarene family that is praying for them.

How has LINKS progressed?

Our times have been changing. In recent years, with the era of Technology we have been able to have more contact with the missionaries LINKS. Now we can communicate through text messages (WhatsApp), emails and videos reach us faster.

Every 3 years, the Global NMI Office together with the Regional NMI Coordinators, assign missionaries to the districts, sending them a photo and information about them, what they do, where they serve, some information about their family, as well as the address or email where they can communicate.



In some cases, the address and some data of the countries where some missionaries serve are not shared with the local churches for the missionary's safety, as some are serving in places where Christians are persecuted.

LINKS in the XXI century.

We cannot deny that the year 2020 has taught us another way to interact with the Link Missionaries. In this time of pandemic, we have heard the testimony of many missionaries, we have met more missionaries and we were able to observe a little more the great work of many of them.

Some of you have had the blessing of hearing in your Missionary service (District, Zone or Local) the testimony of some link missionary, because thanks to these platforms such as Zoom or Facebook, it has been possible to break the barriers of distance and time.

When we pray for the missionary LINKS, as local churches, we develop a sense of belonging and participation in the mission of the Church of the Nazarene as we remember that the Mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to "Make Christlike disciples in the nations." Matthew 28: 19-20. As a people consecrated to God, we share his love for the lost and his compassion for the poor and afflicted.

And you, do you know who the missionary links in your district? If not, we give you the following recommendations:

- Ask your local NMI president, he or she will provide you with the name of your LINKS missionary.
- Once you have the name of the LINKS missionary, contact him or her and ask if they have any prayer requests, and pass the requests on to your local church.
- Congratulate your LINKS missionary on her birthday and that of her family, if she has one.
- If you or your church wish to send an offering for your LINKS missionary, do so through your Area Office, indicating the name of the missionary or missionary family, indicating the concept or reason for the offering.
- In the month of October, we emphasize this area of Impact of Nazarene Missions International. It can be used to send a special offering this month.

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