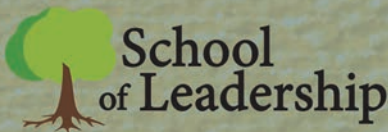


CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

How you can contribute to the global mission
making Christlike disciples through your local

ANA M. CROCKER



The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Cross-Cultural Missions Course

Church of the Nazarene

Mesoamerica Region

Ana María Crocker de Díaz



The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions
A book in the School of Leadership series.
Cross-Cultural Missions Course

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Introduction

The School of Leadership book series is designed to provide a tool for the church to train and educate its members so they can actively participate in Christian service according to the gifts and calling (vocation) they have received from their Lord.

Each book provides study materials for a course of the School of Leadership program that is offered by the Theological Institutions of the Mesoamerica Region of the Church of the Nazarene. These are: AIBN serving Guatemala North; ASTN serving El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua; SENAMEX North serving Central and South Mexico; and SENDAS serving Costa Rica and Panama. The leaders and the schools (presidents, directors, academic vice presidents and directors of decentralized academic studies) actively participated in the program design.

The School of Leadership has five core courses common to all ministries and six specialized courses for each individual ministry. After completing the series, the respective Theological Institution gives the student a certificate (or diploma) in Specialized Ministry.

The general objective of the School of Leadership is “to work with the local church in equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, giving them solid, theological, Biblical knowledge and developing them through the exercise of their gifts for service in their local congregation and in society.” The specific objectives of this program are threefold:

- Develop the ministerial gifts of the local congregation.
- Multiply service ministries in the church and community.
- Raise awareness of the vocation of professional ministry in its diverse forms.

This series entitled *Cross-Cultural Missions* has the objective of helping churches to be aware of the reality of the world today without Christ. The purpose is to involve the church in the preparation and support of those called to cross-cultural missions. We want to thank Ruben and Monica Fernandez, Benjamin Cruz, Ana Crocker, Maddai Gonzalez, Erika Hasenauer, David Campos, Claudia Cruz, Esther Quezada, Marlen de Soria, David Cooper, Charles Gailey, Ulises Solis, Sara de Diaz, German and Patricia Picavea, Samuel Aparicio and Shelley Webb who all contributed to this project.

A special thanks to Dr. Monica Mastronardi de Fernandez for her dedication as General Editor of the project, to the Regional Ministry Coordinators, and to the team of writers and designers who collaborated to publish these books. An additional thanks to the teachers who will share these materials. They will make a difference in the lives of thousands of people throughout the Mesoamerica Region.

Finally, I give thanks to Rev. Edwin Martinez and his team in Mesoamerica Regional Literature for the publication and distribution of these materials, and to Dr. L. Carlos Saenz, Mesoamerica Regional Director, for his continued support in this task, which is the result of his conviction of the important need for the church to be comprehensively trained.

I pray for God’s blessing for all the disciples whose lives and Christian service will be enriched by these books.

Scott Armstrong
Coordinator of Global Mission
Mesoamerica Region

What Is the School of Leadership?

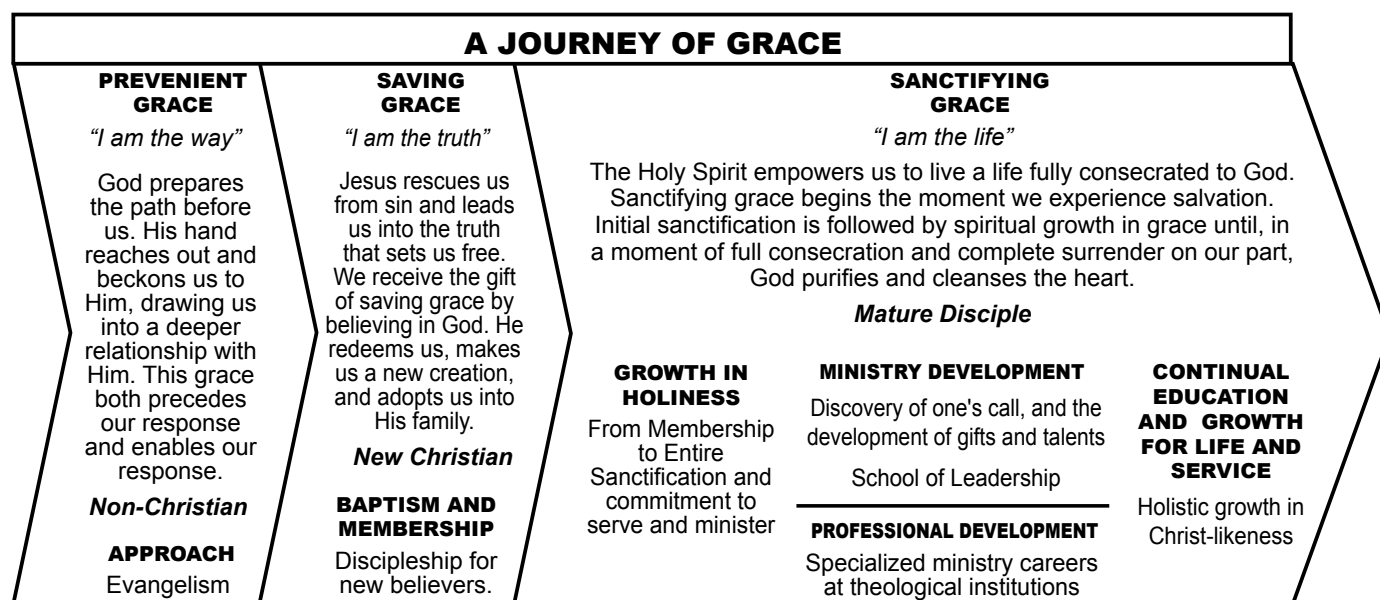
The **School of Leadership** is an educational program for lay ministry in different specialties to engage in the mission of the local church. This program is administered by the Theological Institutions of the Church of the Nazarene in the Mesoamerica Region and taught both at these institutions and in the local churches enrolled in the program.

Who Can Benefit from the School of Leadership?

It is for all the members of the Church of the Nazarene who have participated in Levels Saving Grace and Sanctifying Grace - Growth in Holiness of the discipleship program A Journey of Grace, and who, with all their heart, wish to discover their gifts and serve God in His work.

The Plan - A Journey of Grace

In the Church of the Nazarene, we believe that making disciples in the image of Christ in the nations is the foundation of the missionary work of the church and the responsibility of its leadership (Ephesians 4:7-16). For this, at all levels of the church, the implementation of progressive discipleship is promoted as “A Journey of Grace” (John 14: 6), a lifestyle of discipleship. The School of Leadership is part of the “Sanctifying Grace - Ministry Development” section, and is designed for those who have gone through the “Prevenient Grace” and “Saving Grace” sections of the discipleship path.



The work of discipleship is continuous and dynamic; therefore, the disciple never stops growing in the likeness of his Lord. This growth, when healthy, occurs in all dimensions: the individual dimension (spiritual growth), the corporate dimension (joining the congregation), the holiness in life dimension (progressive transformation of our being and doing according to the model of Jesus Christ) and the service dimension (investing our lives in ministry).

Dr. Monica Mastronardi de Fernandez
Managing Editor, The School of Leadership Book Series



How Do I Use This Book?

This book contains eight lessons of the School of Leadership program, along with activities and final evaluation of the course.

How are the contents of this book organized?

Each of the eight lessons of this book contains the following:

- ▶ **Objectives:** These are the learning objectives the student is expected to understand at the end of the lesson.
- ▶ **Main Ideas:** A summary of the key teachings of the lesson.
- ▶ **Development of Lesson:** This is the largest section because it is the development of the contents of the lesson. The lessons have been written so that the book can be the teacher, and for that reason the contents have been written in a dynamic form and in simple language with contemporary ideas.
- ▶ **Notes and Comments:** The information in the margins is intended to clarify terms and provide notes that complement or extend the content of the lesson.
- ▶ **Questions:** Sometimes questions are included in the margin that the teacher can use to introduce or reinforce a lesson topic.
- ▶ **What did we learn?:** The box at the end of the lesson development section provides a brief summary of the lesson.
- ▶ **Activities:** This is a page at the end of each lesson that contains learning activities, for individuals or groups, on the subject studied. The estimated time for implementation in class is 20 minutes.
- ▶ **Final evaluation of the course:** This is the last page of the book and once completed the student must remove it from the book and hand it in to a course instructor. The final evaluation should take about 15 minutes.

How long is each course?

The courses are designed for 12 hours of class over 8 ninety-minute sessions. Each institution and each church or local theological study center will coordinate days and times of the classes. Within this hour and a half the teacher or the teachers should include time for the activities contained in the book.

What is the role of the student?

The student is responsible for the following:

1. Enroll on time for the course.
2. Buy the book and study each lesson before class time.
3. Arrive for class on time.
4. Participate in class activities.
5. Participate in practical ministry in the local church outside of class.
6. Complete and submit the final evaluation to the teacher.

What is the role of the teacher of the course?

The professors and teachers for the School of Leadership courses are pastors and laity committed to the mission and ministry of the church and preferably have experience in the ministry they teach. The Director and/or the School of Leadership at the local church (or theological institution) invites their participation and their functions are the following:

1. Be well prepared by studying the book's content and scheduling the use of class time. When studying the lesson, you should have on hand the Bible and a dictionary. Although the lessons are written using simple language, it is recommended that you "translate" what you consider difficult in order to help the students understand. In other words, use terms that they can better understand.
2. Ensure that the students are studying the material in the book and achieving the learning objectives.
3. Plan and accompany students in the activities of ministerial practice. The local pastor and the director of the respective ministry must schedule these activities. These activities should not take away from class time.
4. Take daily attendance and grades in the class report form. The final average will be the result demonstrated by the student in the following activities:
 - a. Class work
 - b. Participation in ministerial practice outside of class
 - c. Final evaluation
5. At the end of the course, collect the evaluation sheets and hand them in with the form "Class Report" to the local School of Leadership director. Do this after totaling the averages and verifying that all data is complete on the form.
6. Professors and teachers should not add tasks or reading assignments apart from the contents of the book. They should be creative in the design of the learning activities and in planning ministry activities outside the classroom according to the reality of their local church and its context.

How do I teach a class?

We recommend using a 90-minute class session as follows:

- **5 minutes:** Review the topic of the previous lesson and pray together.
- **30 minutes:** Review and discuss the lesson. We recommend using an outline, chalkboard, cardboard or other available materials, using dynamic learning activities and visual media such as graphics, drawings, objects, pictures, questions, assigning students to submit parts of the lesson, and so on. We do not recommend lecturing or having the teacher reread the lesson content.
- **5 minutes:** Break either in the middle of class or when it is convenient.
- **20 minutes:** Work on activities in the book. This can be done at the beginning,

middle or end of the review, or you can complete the activities as you proceed in accordance with the issues as it relates to them.

- **20 minutes:** Discussion about the students' ministry practice that they currently do and that they will do. At the beginning of the course you will need to present the schedule to the students so that they can make arrangements to attend the ministry practice. In the classes when the students discuss their ministry practice, the conversation should be focused on what they learned, including their successes and their errors, as well as the difficulties they encountered.
- **10 minutes:** Prayer for the issues arising from the practice (challenges, people, problems, goals, gratitude for the results, among others).

How do I implement the final course evaluation?

Allocate 15 minutes of time during the last class meeting for the course evaluation. If necessary, students may consult their books and Bibles. Final evaluations are designed to be an activity to reinforce what was learned in class and not a repetition of the contents of the book. The purpose of this assessment is to measure the understanding and evaluation of the student concerning the class topics, their spiritual growth, their progress in the commitment to the mission of the church and their progress in ministerial experience.

Ministerial Practice Activities

The following are suggested activities for ministerial practice outside of class. The list below includes several ideas to help teachers, pastors, directors of local School of Leadership groups and local ministry directors. From the list you can choose the practice most suited to the contextual situation and the local church ministry, or others can replace these according to the needs and possibilities of your context.

We recommend having at least three ministerial activities per course. You can put the whole class to work on a project or assign group tasks according to interests, gifts and abilities. It is advisable to involve students in a variety of new ministry experiences.

Suggested Ministry Activities for the Course: The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

1. Conduct a survey of church members to see how much they know about missionary offerings.
2. Plan a missions service with the theme, “Our Vision: Reaching the World,” where you will use audiovisual resources to teach the church about the state of Nazarene missions today.
3. Plan a special service about LINKS, with the purpose of connecting the church with the missionary family which is being adopted by your district. Prepare for the service by learning all you can about this family, their ministry, and the country where they are serving. If possible, ask them to send a recorded message or conduct an interview with them via the internet. This could be a service for children, youth, adults, or all of the above.
4. Promote WEF offerings using creative ideas to motivate people to reach the goals set by the local church.
5. Make paper wallets with a special design/logo so that people can set aside their weekly or monthly prayer and fasting offerings.
6. Create a prayer chain to pray for the specific needs of the missionaries assigned to your district through the LINKS program.
7. Find out how many projects have been completed in your district thanks to Alabaster offerings and prepare a PowerPoint presentation with photos to promote this offering.
8. If possible, plan a deputation service with a missionary family. Include a special mealtime so the congregation can visit with the missionary family.



LESSON 1

Where Did Nazarene Missions Begin?

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Objectives

- To identify the origins of Nazarene Missions.
- To learn about how the mission is expressed in Genesis 1-3.
- To identify the many human needs to be met through the mission.

Main Ideas

- Missions began when God created the world.
- The goal of Nazarene Missions is to meet all types of human need.
- Still today the local church has much to contribute to missions. The people of God received a mission from the Lord which has yet to be completed.

Introduction

It is often thought that missions is just one more burden for the local church, but since its beginnings the Church of the Nazarene has been a missionary church and a Bible preaching church emphasizing Biblical salvation. And that is the point! Every Bible believing church must be a missionary church. Why? Because missions flows through every Biblical revelation. The Bible reveals God's missionary heart. We hear his heartbeat in the Old Testament, from Genesis to the prophetic books, and in the New Testament, from Matthew to Revelation.

The Beginning of the Great Commission

In this section we remember the origin of missions.



*"We can understand the image of God in us from two perspectives: its essence and its function. Its essence speaks about the capacity to relate with God. Its function can be seen in that humans are placed on earth as God's representatives before all of Creation."
(Voth, 1992, p. 55)*

When did missions begin? Some might answer, "In Acts with Paul." Others might say, "On the day of Pentecost," or "With the Great Commission." However, God's mission for humanity began much earlier, at the creation of the world.

What words did God speak while forming mankind? The Father, together with the Son and Holy Spirit said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). For six days God had created every detail in the universe: the light, the heavens and the earth, the sun, fish and other animals. As the time came to create the crown of all creation, God the Trinity declared: "Let us make mankind." From the moment of creation, God's desire has been for humanity to live as a reflection of God's very image and according to the divine likeness.

When a baby is born and people say, "He looks like you," those words fill the father or mother's heart with joy. Why? Because they have noticed the little child reflects the parent's image. Parents can see their own image in their sons and daughters. God longs to feel the same joy with his children,

but there are millions who are so far away from their Creator that they barely retain even traces of that image. This is where God’s mission begins in the book of Genesis. God’s primary desire is for all human beings to recover God’s image and to learn to live in holiness.

The Great Commission that Jesus gave to his disciples is written in Matthew 28:19-20. But where is God’s first commission for humanity found? In Genesis 1:28: “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’” In their first moments of life, God sent man and woman to be fruitful and increase in number that they might fill and subdue the earth. At this point, sin had not yet entered into human history. God commissioned humanity when they were still pure and without sin to rule over the earth. God wanted the splendor of His very image to shine over every inch of the planet.

This is still God’s mission for all humanity. God desires for His image to shine through His holy children in all of the nations.

Mission and Physical Needs

God was the first to respond to physical needs.



In the Church of the Nazarene, many different ministries make up the missionary effort: compassionate ministries, the Jesus Film, radio transmissions, evangelism, and discipleship, among others. It is one missionary effort with many different expressions. Reading the story of Eden, we see God’s mission began when He responded and provided a solution for Adam and Eve’s needs. God’s mission included providing for humanity through different and diverse means.

We can recognize these different means if we study Genesis 2. There are five things God did to meet the physical needs of the man and the woman.

1. Shelter. After forming and breathing life over the man (Gen. 2:7), God provided shelter: “Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed” (Gen. 2:8).
2. Work. The second thing God did was to put him to work: “The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it” (Gen. 2:15).
3. Food. The third thing was to feed him: “And the Lord God commanded the man, ‘You are free to eat from any tree in the garden’” (Gen. 2:16). These were trees which God had already planted: “The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food” (Gen. 2:9). These were all within Adam and Eve’s reach.
4. Authority for the mission. God gave man a vocation, job and mission in which to invest his life when He gave him the task of having

“God has stamped us with something which allows him to initiate an intimate relationship with us... The wonderful possibility we have of responding to the divine is made possible by God’s image in us” (Voth, 1992, p.55).

What needs did God provide for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden?

“...the Scriptures, from Genesis to Revelation, highlight the divine concern for the holistic wellbeing of his entire creation, even before the fall” (Smith 29).

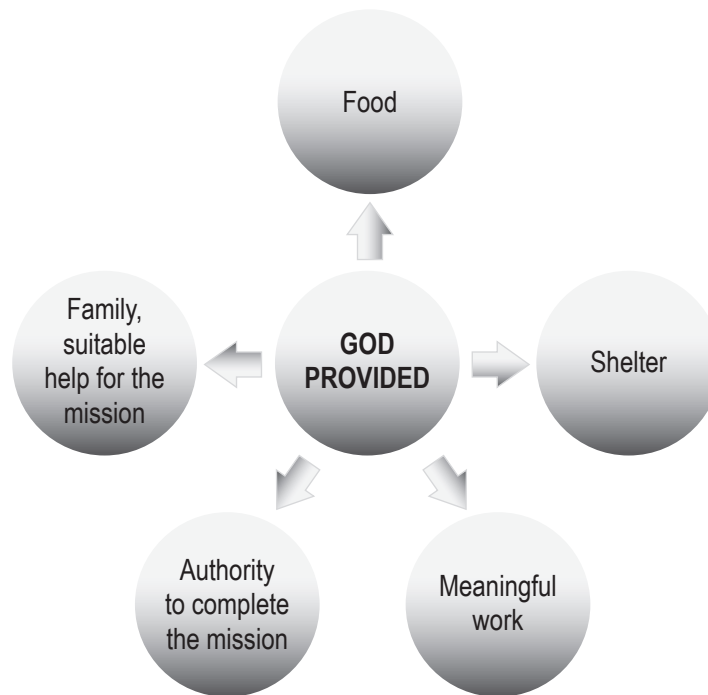
The blessing of work.

God blessed the new stewards with the dignity of his image and likeness to share his own attitude toward having the power to have, in his name, dominion over the non-human created world (Smith, 29).

authority over all creatures: “Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name” (Gen. 2:19). The first evidence of the authority given to humanity is shown by these words: “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground’” (Gen. 1:28).

- 5. Family. This was the fifth need God provided. God saw it was not good for man to be alone (Gen. 2:18). In order to fill this need, God performed the first surgery ever, forming a partner for the man who would be a suitable helper. Human beings would complete the mission God had given them within the context of a family.

GOD PROVIDES FOR ADAM AND EVE’S PHYSICAL NEEDS



Shelter, work, food, authority and family are all expressions of God’s missionary effort, and all five meet the different physical needs of human beings.

The missionary effort of the Church of the Nazarene is similar to the one God began in the Garden of Eden. Alabaster offerings and Work and Witness teams provide shelter when churches, parsonages and other buildings are constructed to help a local church’s ministry. Compassionate ministries provide food, education and help to families affected by natural disasters. Nazarene communications produce programs to spread the Word of God and strengthen families. Sunday School and discipleship ministries

teach God's children how to live under God's authority and how to dedicate their lives to service. Nazarene Missions responds to the same physical needs God's original mission sought to meet.

Mission and Spiritual Needs

Nazarene Missions respond to people's spiritual needs.



In the story of creation, it is very evident that God did more than supply for the physical needs of Adam and Eve. In the first chapters of Genesis we find three expressions of God's mission whose purpose was to provide for even deeper needs. These had to do with the spiritual needs of the human being.

1. The need for eternal life. Genesis 2:9 says, *"The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground... In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."* At the center of the Garden of Eden was access to eternal life. God only prohibited man from eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17). God freely offered eternal life to the man and woman. As an eternal being, God wanted to have a permanent relationship with humanity. Even today, God's gift of eternal life to humanity is the first message Nazarene missionaries proclaim (John 3:16). This is why we do missions. Physical needs are important, but only temporary. We can try to meet all of a person's physical needs, but if they do not have eternal life the efforts will just be temporary. But eternal life is a gift without end. Sharing the gift of eternal life was at the center of God's missionary efforts, and today it is also at the center of Nazarene missions.

2. The need to learn how to make right decisions. Guiding human beings to make right decisions is the second aspect of God's mission in Eden. We have seen that God freely offered eternal life to the first couple. However, eternal life was not imposed on them; they had a decision to make. Genesis 2:16 says that alongside the tree of life, God also planted the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Humanity had the option of eating from this tree, but God warned them, *"...but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die"* (Gen. 2:17). We could say that in God's original mission, eternal life was within reach of human beings. For us today, making a decision can also start us on a journey towards eternal life. Nazarene Missions fulfills its mission when it helps people to make THE DECISION to follow Christ. Through its missionaries, the Church of the Nazarene makes every effort to lead unbelievers into this eternal decision, using tools such as the Jesus Film, the EvangeCube, small group Bible studies, evangelistic crusades, among others.

3. The need to nurture a relationship with our Creator. When God created human beings, He created us with the need to be in communion with God. This need is part of the image and likeness of God present in all

"Metanoia or repentance means, "a change in direction." It implies a radical change in the way of thinking and acting, it... is the beginning of a new age for that person who opts to be reconciled with God and enter the new order of the Kingdom through a Messianic community"
(Lozada y Angulo, 204).

of us. Our eternal God created eternal beings with a need to be in eternal relationship. The relationship or communion between God and human beings is at the heart of God's mission in Eden. When human beings are in a right relationship with God, they are able to function better in all facets of life. This is why the main task of Nazarene Missions is to guide persons to nurture an eternal relationship with the Creator, which begins with a profession of faith. It is powerful to witness the progressive restoration God can accomplish in the life of his children when they nurture a relationship with Him. A good relationship with God places all other tasks under the Lordship of Christ. The restoration of relationships between people and God through discipleship is the supreme goal of Nazarene Missions. This is why having "professions of faith" without follow-up is not enough. The Church of the Nazarene desires – through teaching and preaching – to guide and support believers in an experience of continuous, life-long sanctification. This is why we believe the decision to follow Christ as a disciple is a daily decision. Nazarene Missions has many tasks, but only one mission: to restore the relationship between human beings and their Creator.

Area	Need	If Not Satisfied, These Are the Results
1. Biological/ Physical	Food, shelter, clothing, health, exercise.	Sickness, inability to learn and succeed in life, even physical death.
2. Psychological/ Emotional	Stimulation, security, love, emotional and physical intimacy, self-respect, self-esteem, respect for others, Independence.	Psychological problems, such as depression, anxiety, etc. can even cause mental disorders (psychosis) and/or suicide.
3. Social	Family, spouse, interdependence, belonging to a group, communication, friendship, understanding, acceptance, love, acknowledgment.	Hostility, violence, criminal behavior, marginalization, low self-esteem.
4. Cultural/ Intellectual	Developing one's abilities, learning, finding a vocation, self-realization, fulfillment, play, values and principles.	Frustration, lack of motivation, wasting one's talents.
5. Spiritual	Knowing the message of salvation, receiving Christ as Lord and Savior, being accepted into God's family, being disciplined, growing in communion with God, serving God according to one's calling.	The Unbeliever: Life with no eternal purpose, no hope, frustration in chasing goals that do not bring true joy, being apart from God, eternal death. The Christian: Lack of growth, lack of holiness, frustration with the Christian life, falling into sin and losing eternal life.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Order the human needs listed below in the columns according to category.

family – education – water – self-fulfillment – partner – acquiring values and principles – kindness – play – understanding – food – stimulation – developing abilities – shelter – security – exercise – growing in communion with God – acknowledgment – health – respect – knowing the message of salvation – belonging to a group – self-esteem – communication – receiving Christ as Lord and Savior – safety – serving God – love – finding a vocation – friendship – acceptance – being discipled

HUMAN NEEDS				
PHYSICAL	EMOTIONAL	INTELLECTUAL	SPIRITUAL	SOCIAL

2. In groups of 3 or 4, using large sheets of paper or poster board and colored markers, answer the following question through an image or a drawing: What is the relationship between Nazarene Missions and the mission of God in Genesis 1 - 3?

Once everyone is done, each group will present their work to the rest of the class.

3. In your own words, describe how you would respond to the following comments or questions:

Comment: “NMI offerings are just one more burden added to the many others we carry as a local church.”

Response: _____

Comment: “What does the Church of the Nazarene do with all of the missionary offerings they collect?”

Response: _____

Comment: “Why do we have to worry about the needs of people in other countries when we have so many needs in our own country?”

Response: _____



LESSON 2

Our Vision: Reaching the World

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Objectives

- To understand that sending missionaries allows us to reach the world for Christ.
- To learn how the church supports its missionaries.
- To know where the church is currently present in the world.

Main Ideas

- The ministry of NMI reminds us we are a “sent people,” sent by Christ to make disciples of all nations.
- The church depends on global, regional and volunteer missionaries.
- In the Church of the Nazarene today, missionaries are being sent from all world areas to all world areas.

Introduction

Many years after Adam and Eve, God chose a man and family through whom He might fulfill His word. The story of humanity and its relationship with God before Abram shows the sad and universal consequences of the fall. The flood brought about universal destruction (Gen. 7:21-23). The scattering of all people at Babel was God’s punishment for their disobedience (Gen. 11:1-9).

Even after God brought all of these things to change their way of being, human beings (with a very few exceptions) continued in their evil ways. That is when God chose a family through which He would begin His mission of salvation: *“The Lord had said to Abram, ‘Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you’”* (Gen. 12:1-3).

“Go from your country... to the land I will show you,” sounds like a missionary call. A specially chosen man and his descendants would serve as God’s instrument to bless all the families of the earth. If Abram chose to follow God’s call, he would become a great nation. More than that, God would fulfill His mission to all the nations. Abram and his descendants would become God’s missionary tools to reach the world.

For various reasons, this universal vision would not be completely realized until the book of Acts, when the arrival of the Holy Spirit spread God’s mission out from Jerusalem. Even so, God’s original intent in choosing Abraham for missionary work was evident from the moment he was called: *“...all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

God has called the Church of the Nazarene to this same purpose. He did not forgive us and fill us with the Holy Spirit so we could keep this restored relationship with Him to ourselves. God’s desire is that through the power of the Holy Spirit we might accomplish His missionary vision to the entire world.

What are the similarities between God’s call on Abraham and God’s call on the church today?

Our Values and Mission

How important is the missionary vision to the Church of the Nazarene?



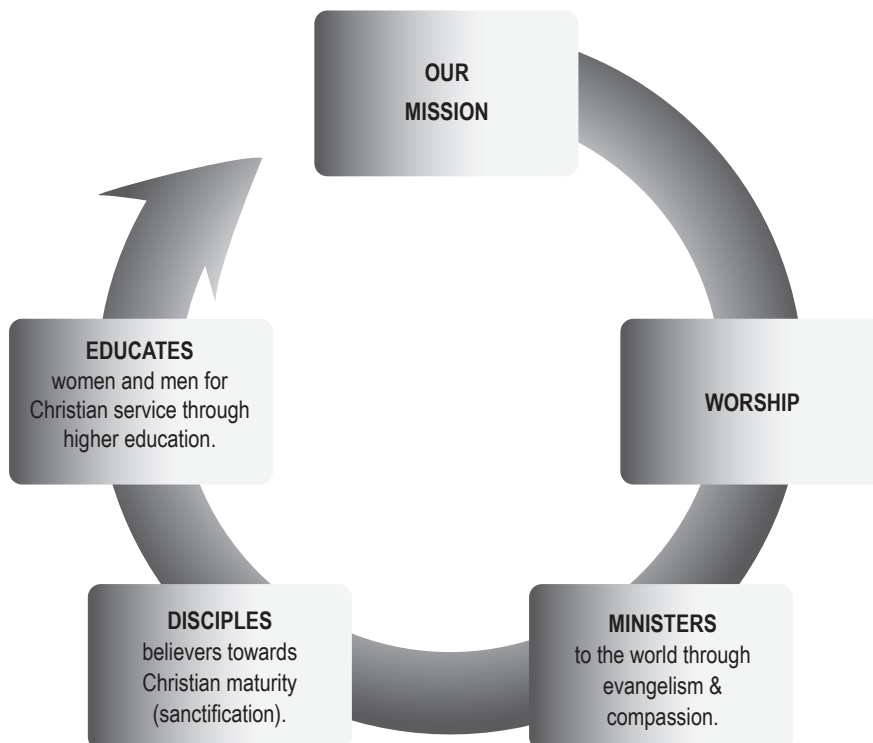
The Church of the Nazarene has the following core values:

1. We are a Christian people: as members of the Church universal, we must join with all true Christians in proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the historical, Trinitarian creeds of the Christian faith.

2. We are a holiness people: God, who is holy, calls us to a life of holiness. We believe the Holy Spirit desires to accomplish a second work of grace in us, which is known by terms such as “entire sanctification” and “the baptism of the Holy Spirit;” cleansing us from all sin, renewing us in the image of God, granting us the power to love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbor as ourselves, and producing in us the character of Christ. Holiness in the life of believers is understood most clearly as having the likeness of Christ.

3. We are a missional people. We are a “sent people,” responding to the call of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into the world to witness to the Lordship of Christ and to participate with God in the building up of the Church and spreading of His kingdom (2 Corinthians 6:1). Our mission: (a) initiates in worship, (b) ministers to the world through evangelism and compassion, (c) encourages believers in Christian maturity through discipleship, (d) educates women and men for Christian service through higher education.

*“In developing a global ministry, the Church of the Nazarene has depended historically on the energies of national workers who have shared with missionaries the tasks of preaching and teaching the word of grace”
(Manual, Historical Statement, 23).*



The Nazarene Presence in the World

How are we reaching the world?



“In the Church of the Nazarene today, the world is being sent to the world!”

The ministry of Nazarene Missions International always reminds us that as Christians we are a “sent people” responding to Christ’s call to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), and who have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses.

This purpose has been reflected by the emphases of the past few years:

“To make Christ-like disciples in our Jerusalem” (2009)

“To make Christ-like disciples in our Judea” (2010)

“To make Christ-like disciples in our Samaria” (2011)

“To make Christ-like disciples of all nations (globally)” (2012)

The last one means going to the ends of the earth. By 2011, the Church of the Nazarene had a presence in 159 world areas, which for administrative purposes is divided into six Global Mission Regions. These are given below, along with the countries which make them up and what year the work of the church was started in each. As a precaution and for the safety of missionary personnel, creative access countries and areas are not included.

“Thanks to our global presence and national leaders, the Church of the Nazarene is in a unique position where every country can be a sending country and every region can be a sending region for missionaries and volunteers”
(General Superintendents, 2012).

Africa Region: 38		
Angola – 1992	Sao Tome y Principe – 1997	Kenya – 1984
Botswana – 1984	Sierra Leone – 2004	Liberia – 1990
Burundi – 1999	South Sudan – 2012	Malawi – 1957
Cape Verde – 1901	Tanzania – 1990	Mozambique – 1922
Cote d'Ivoire – 1987	Uganda – 1988	Nigeria – 1977
Equatorial Guinea – 2002	Zanzibar – 2006	Rwanda – 1990
Ghana – 1990	Benin – 1998	Senegal – 1988
Guinea Conakry – 2009	Burkina Faso – 1997	South Africa – 1919
Lesotho – 1993	Cameroon – 1999	Swaziland – 1910
Madagascar – 1993	Republic of Congo – 1997	Togo – 1998
Mali – 2012	Democratic Republic of Congo – 1990	Zambia – 1961
Namibia – 1973	Gabon – 1999	Zimbabwe – 963
Reunion – 2003	Guinea Bissau – 2004	

Asia-Pacific Region: 23		
American Samoa – 1958	Thailand – 1989	Hong Kong (SAR) – 1974
Chuuk State – 2000	Tonga – 2000	Myanmar – 1984
Guam – 1971	Creative Access Area – 2012	Palau – 1995
Japan – 1905	Australia – 1946	Philippines – 1946
New Zealand – 1952	Samoa – 1964	Saipan – 2000
Papua New Guinea – 1955	South Korea – 1948	Solomon Islands – 1992
Pohnpei – 2000	Vanuatu – 2001	Taiwan – 1956
Timor l’Este – 2001		Timor l’Este – 2001

USA/Canada Region: 3		
Bermuda – 1970	United States – 1887	Canada – 1902

Eurasia Region: 33		
Armenia – 2002	Poland – 1999	Holland – 1967
Bangladesh – 1992	Romania – 1992	India – 1898
Croatia – 1999	Spain – 1981	Italy – 1948
Denmark – 1960	Switzerland – 1978	Madeira – 2002
France – 1977	Ukraine – 1992	Nepal – 1998
Greece – 2002	South Sudan – 2012	Pakistan – 1996
Hungary – 1996	Azores – 1984	Portugal – 1973
Ireland – 1987	Bulgaria – 1994	Russia – 1992
Kosovo – 2005	Cyprus – 1985	Sri Lanka – 2000
Moldova – 2009	Egypt – 1986	United Kingdom – 1909
Norway – 2009	Germany – 1958	Syria – 1920

Mesoamerica Region: 31		
Costa Rica – 1964	Jamaica – 1966	Belize – 1934
Guatemala – 1904	Puerto Rico – 1944	Dominica – 1974
Mexico – 1903	Saint Lucia – 1972	French Guiana – 1988
Panama – 1953	Saint Vicente – 1975	Guadeloupe – 1986
Aruba – 2000	Trinidad & Tobago – 1926	Haiti – 1950
Barbados – 1926	El Salvador – 1964	Martinique – 1976
Cuba – 1902	Honduras – 1970	Saint Kitts & Nevis – 1983
Dominican Republic – 1974	Nicaragua – 1937	Saint Martin – 1994
Grenada – 1977	Antigua – 1973	Suriname – 1984
Guyana – 1946	Bahamas – 1971	Turks and Caicos – 2012
Saint Croix	U.S. Virgin Islands, 1944	

South America Region: 10		
Argentina – 1909	Uruguay – 1949	Ecuador – 1972
Brazil – 1958	Bolivia – 1945	Peru – 1914
Colombia – 1975	Chile – 1962	Venezuela – 1982
Paraguay – 1980		

Global Missionaries

How many global missionaries does our denomination have and where are they from?



What year did the Church of the Nazarene change the name of World Mission to Global Mission?

Currently, the Church of the Nazarene is one of the denominations with the most missionaries spread around the world. Full-time global missionaries are those who have accepted God's call to serve the Church of the Nazarene in developing cross-cultural ministries full-time. Most global missionaries currently serving come from the United States. They receive their salaries through the World Evangelism Fund.

In 2010, of the 537 active missionaries in the Church of the Nazarene, 72% came from the USA and 28% from other countries.

All full-time missionaries in the Church of the Nazarene (except for volunteers) receive a monthly compensation which allows them to live modestly according to the standard of living of the country they serve.

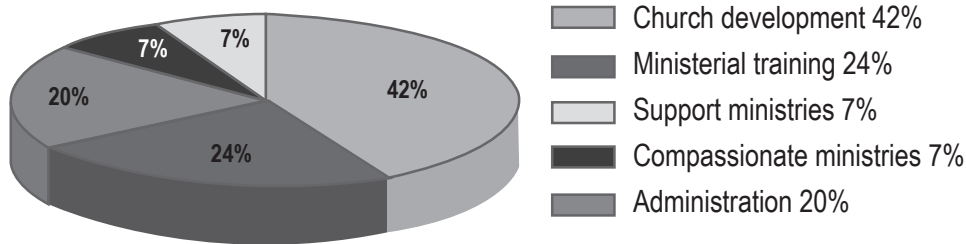
Countries of origin for Global Missionaries Serving in 2010		
Australia	South Africa	Thailand
Japan	Guatemala	United States
Cape Verde	Barbados	Brazil
Netherlands	El Salvador	Costa Rica
Philippines	Colombia	Italy
Korea	Kenya	Mozambique
Zimbabwe	Ireland	Peru
Panama	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Canada	Mexico	Paraguay
Argentina	Portugal	Cambodia
Germany		

In 2012, thanks to WEF funds, the Church of the Nazarene supported 177 children from missionary families spread across 159 world areas, providing them with education and health care, among other things.

Global missionaries serve in different roles:

- 42% are assigned to church development
- 24% are assigned to ministerial training
- 20% are assigned to supporting the various ministries of the Church of the Nazarene
- 7% are assigned to administrative positions (regional and field offices, theological institutions, others)
- 7% are assigned to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

Breakdown of Assignments



In 2012 the church had 737 global missionaries, including 342 Mission Corps volunteers, serving in 36 world areas. Of these, 395 are active missionaries being supported by the church.

Volunteer Missionaries

What are volunteer missionaries?



Volunteer missionaries serve the church for a set amount of time and are supported financially by their churches, families, and their own fundraising efforts.

In 2007, seven youth from what was known as the MAC Region (now the Mesoamerica Region) were challenged to serve through the Isaiah and Caleb Projects. Four were from Mexico, three of which served in Spain and the other in the Middle East. One was from Guatemala and another from El Salvador; both served in the Middle East, and a third was from Nicaragua and served in Spain.

This group of volunteers was supported by their own churches, districts and fields. They raised enough funds to sustain them for two years, including their round trip ticket costs.

In 2011 there were 29 Korean Nazarene missionaries serving in Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, and Africa. Almost 50% of these missionaries were serving in creative access countries. With the exception of one global missionary couple and several regional missionary couples, the financial support for these missionaries comes from our churches in Korea.

Regional Missionaries

What are regional missionaries?



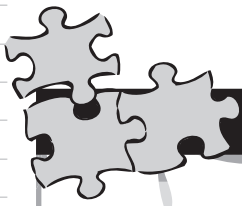
The Regional Office and the various Field Offices in the Mesoamerica Region rely on a number of missionaries with special assignments to contribute in the development of the church and its ministries. They are funded by the World Evangelism Fund.

Of the volunteer missionaries who served in Spain and the Middle East, five continued to serve in missions. Two continued on as volunteers (one by returning to the Middle East and the other by planting churches in a missional zone) and three are now serving as regional missionaries

In 2011, 15,000 foreign Christian missionaries worked hard to evangelize the people of Great Britain. The majority of these missionaries came from Africa and Asia.

with special assignments in the following posts: Director of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in Haiti, Field Coordinator of Evangelism and Global Mission, and Field Coordinator of Evangelism and Work and Witness.

Since the beginnings of mission work in the Church of the Nazarene, missionaries (both global and volunteer) mostly came from the United States and served in the World Mission fields, now called Global Mission. However, as time moves on, more global, regional and volunteer missionaries are coming from other countries to serve cross-culturally. Today, in the Church of the Nazarene, the world is being sent to the world!



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

For many years most missionaries came from the United States. But now the situation has changed and Nazarene churches from around the world send and support more than 600 missionaries who are reaching the world for Christ.

Activities

Time



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. How many missionaries do you know? Write down the names of five missionaries, the country that sent them, and the country where they are serving.

Missionary	Sending country	Country of service

2. In your opinion, what are the advantages of Nazarene churches around the world sending missionaries throughout the world?

3. Study the lyrics to the song below and write a personal reflection about the message of the song. (This is an English translation of "The Apostle." Original Spanish lyrics are below).

<i>With sword in hand</i>	<i>I don't bow to fear</i>	<i>So I invite you</i>	<i>Let's go to the fields</i>
<i>And shield at my side</i>	<i>I am a missionary</i>	<i>My brothers and sisters</i>	<i>To sow the seed</i>
<i>The Holy Spirit</i>	<i>A brave apostle</i>	<i>To be a missionary</i>	<i>So many with needs</i>
<i>Sealed my heart</i>	<i>And soldier of the Lord</i>	<i>A soldier of the Lord</i>	<i>But we are of one heart</i>
<i>With the boots of the gospel</i>	<i>Many battles</i>	<i>The fields are ready,</i>	<i>You are the Church</i>
<i>Laced on my feet</i>	<i>I have fought for Him</i>	<i>But we need more workers!</i>	<i>Faithfully chosen</i>
<i>I left my country</i>	<i>His victorious arm</i>	<i>Let's go preach</i>	<i>Let's gather the harvest</i>
<i>To go to a strange land</i>	<i>Has always sustained me</i>	<i>God's Word of love</i>	<i>Of the Divine Sower</i>



LESSON 3

The Structure of Global Mission and Nazarene Missions International (NMI)

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Objectives

- To learn about the structure of Global Mission.
- To understand the duties of Global and Regional NMI.
- To gain appreciation for the ministries of Global Mission and NMI in the Mesoamerica Region.

Main Ideas

- The Global Mission department coordinates the work of missions for the Church of the Nazarene
- Global Mission relies on the departments of: Literature, Communications, Mobilization and Compassion Ministries.
- In Mesoamerica, Global Mission works through the Regional Director, NMI and Global Mission.

As Christian ministers and leaders, we are not trained to carry out leadership roles by ourselves.

We need to raise up and include faithful Christian men and women in the NMI teams of local churches.

Introduction

The Church of the Nazarene serves through ministry teams. The organizational structure of the church at the global level has changed in the last years and will continue to change as the world – our missionary field – changes and as the church grows and becomes more international.

The members of these ministry teams are chosen by representatives or delegates in local churches and districts of the Church of the Nazarene around the world, who gather periodically in assemblies, committees and boards.

In this lesson we will study the current structure which facilitates the ministry of Nazarene Missions International at the global and regional levels.

The Global Mission Department

In this section we will learn about the structure of Global Mission.



The General Assembly is the supreme authority in the Church of the Nazarene in respect to the formulation of doctrine, legislation and the election of leaders. This General Assembly is chaired by the six General Superintendents and meets every four years. Elected representatives meet as delegates from all of the districts of the Church of the Nazarene around the world.

The General Board is the board which attends to the issues of the general church at the global level. It meets every year for its regular sessions with representatives from all of the world regions. This board is tasked with electing leaders, assigning work committees, and approving budgets.

These three bodies, the General Assembly, the General Board, and the Board of General Superintendents, lead the Church of the Nazarene at the global level.

The General Board elects directors for the various departments of the church who serve until the next General Assembly. This includes the director of the Global Mission Department.

The Department of Global Mission is tasked with the missionary work of the Church of the Nazarene. Like all ministries in our denomination, the ministry has a purpose to fulfill, which is to accomplish the Great Commission through the denominational structure and through a contextualized system of evangelism, discipleship, and development of a holy church equipped to multiply itself.

Global Mission is responsible for the following:

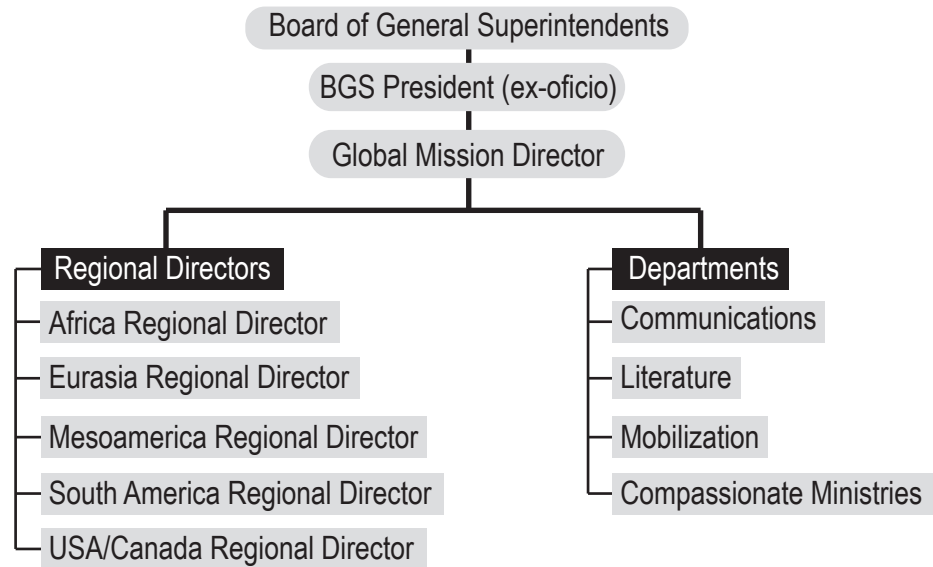
- Implementing mission strategies around the world
- Attending to operational matters in the Africa, Asia-Pacific, Mesoamerica, Eurasia, South America, and USA/Canada regions
- Missionaries, NMI, Literature, and Global Mission matters
- Establishing and conducting the ministries of the Church of the Nazarene in its assigned global regions
- Supervising and overseeing the work of organizing and supporting churches, districts, clinics, hospitals, missionary schools, and other similar compassionate ministries
- Overseeing the activities of the NMI Global Council, an auxiliary arm of this department
- Working with all other departments and ministries to provide materials for the establishment of the church
- Providing supervision over the international Church of the Nazarene
- Overseeing the policies and proceedings of Global Mission
- Managing the offices (local and regional) of the Global Mission department
- Authorize, supervise, and combine all missionary education programs and their materials for the Church of the Nazarene in cooperation with the Missionary Education Committees
- Establishing the church in areas or countries where the church is not yet
- Finding, developing, and presenting candidates to cover missionary service needs; recommending assignments for all missionaries to the Global Mission Committee
- Managing funds and moneys which are part of the Global Mission programs, including Alabaster, mission specials, and missionary deputation funds
- Managing the retirement fund program for missionaries in our denomination
- Assisting in the coordination of missionary services for churches and districts
- Providing funds from the Global Mission budget to NMI
- Establishing and maintaining a balanced missionary program (evangelism, medicine, education)
- Supervising the work of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in the areas of Global Mission

Dr. Verne Ward III was elected as Director of Global Mission by the General Board in February of 2012. He and his wife, Natalie, served as missionaries for 21 years, working in Papua New Guinea, in the Melanesia Field as Director (11 years), and from 2005 to 2012 as Asia-Pacific Regional Director. Ward succeeds Louie E. Bustle, who served for 18 years.

- Providing supervision and administrative care for the Work and Witness program

Dr. Louie Bustle led the department for eighteen years. In 2012 a new director was elected, Dr. Verne Ward III, who previously worked as Director for the Asia-Pacific Region. The director counts on an administrative team in the Global Mission Center of the Church of the Nazarene in Lenexa, Kansas, United States. He also relies on a team which is tasked with coordinating different ministries: Nazarene Missions International, Communications, Literature, Compassionate Ministries, and Mobilization.

STRUCTURE OF GLOBAL MISSION



Global Mission counts on a team of leaders spread over these specialized departments:

Communications: This department trains, equips and provides support in communications for the broadcasting of the ministry of Global Mission, in areas such as DVD production, webpage design, Internet services, and the coordination of communication centers in the six global regions.

Literature: The Global Mission literature ministry has an important role as it provides holiness literature and translations in various languages, all used as tools for making mature disciples and equipping them for effective service.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries: The department offers immediate support for those with needs around the world, including: disaster response, crisis management, child sponsorship, and food and clothing programs. Health ministries offers one of the greatest challenges, especially in responding to the AIDS epidemic. In 2006 NCM created the Global AIDS Office, which was initially under the leadership of Dr. Erika Ríos (a native of Mexico) as its Global Coordinator. This ministry relies on coordinators in the six regions and their fields.

Mobilization: This ministry is devoted to the discovery, development, and deployment of Nazarene missionaries. Previously, this support was given from the USA headquarters, but now it has been decentralized to the world regions.

The Structure of Global NMI

What are the responsibilities of Global and Regional NMI leaders?



Nazarene Missions International (NMI) is the arm of the church which promotes, educates, provides programs, and receives funds for missions. NMI represents missions for the Church of the Nazarene at the regional, district and local levels. This organization provides the structure and dynamic spirit to mobilize the church in missions, keeping alive the church's interest and advancement in missions.

This ministry is coordinated by a Global Director assigned by Global Mission and approved by the Board of General Superintendents, the General Board, the Global Mission Committee, and the Global Council of NMI.

In the regions, NMI relies on Regional Coordinators, and in some cases Field Coordinators, who coordinate the ministry from the district level so the assistance reaches local churches, which are the focus of the ministry.

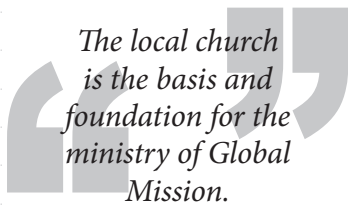
The priorities of these NMI leaders at the regional and field level are these:

- Promote prayer for the salvation of the lost, the needs of the world, the persecuted church, and those who serve God around the world.
- Create awareness of the non-reached people of the world. Challenge church members to unite in the effort to evangelize the world, being inspired by God's love for the lost.
- Promote missions education for children and teens so that they will learn early in life the importance of serving God on the global missionary field.
- Motivate Nazarenes to contribute with the generous offerings to support missionary work around the world, especially through the World Evangelism Fund (WEF).

The Global NMI Council serves in collaboration with the General Board, the Global Mission Director, and the Regional Directors as a global missionary strategy team, and it cooperates to promote the purposes of NMI under the direction of the Global NMI Director and the Global NMI President. It meets at least three times during the quadrennium to plan, exchange ideas, share progress reports, and conduct business. (See NMI Constitution, Article VI, section 3, B)

The Executive Committee is made up of the Global Mission Director, the Global NMI Director, the Global NMI President, the Global NMI Vice-President, the Global NMI Secretary, and one other member of the Council. The Executive Committee meets for business between Council meetings.

The Global Council is made up of: the Global Mission director, the Global NMI director, the Global NMI president, and a representative from each region of the Church of the Nazarene. Under the leadership of the Global NMI Director and the Global NMI President, each member of the council is responsible for promoting the purpose and objectives of NMI. (See NMI Constitution, Article V, Section 3, D.1)



Ministries of Global Mission in Mesoamerica

What responsibilities do Global Mission leaders have in our region?



In addition to the Global Mission office in the Global Ministry Center in Lenexa, Kansas, the ministry relies on people who do their work from the Regions. This is why in the Mesoamerica Region what we previously referred to as World Mission Mesoamerica is now called Global Mission Mesoamerica (GMM).

GMM relies on several programs to carry the ministry forward: Maximum Mission, the Abraham Project, the Isaiah and Caleb Projects, and Cross-Cultural Orientation. This last one is where those who have a call to serve in missions are discovered, disciplined, developed, and sent as voluntary, regional or global missionaries. NMI and GMM collaborate to advance missions for our denomination in this region.

Global Mission (GM) also includes a group of Regional Directors, one from each of the six Global Mission Regions where the Church of the Nazarene ministers. They are accountable to the Global Mission Department and the General Board in administrative matters. In jurisdictional matters, they are accountable to the Board of General Superintendents.

The responsibilities of the Regional Director consist of coordinating, guiding and leading the work of Global Mission in the districts and among the national leaders and missionary workers in their region. Some of their tasks include the following:

- Establish a regional office to be in communication between the region and GM.
- Coordinate the legal and financial matters of the church.
- Coordinate the district assemblies in the region in consultation with the General Superintendent in jurisdiction.
- Help districts in the region to establish and update specific missions goals, objectives, and plans.
- Provide advice and orientation about missionary assignments.
- Coordinate with the districts to develop the ministries of Work and Witness and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries.
- Lead regional, district assembly, theological education, and Regional Council meetings.
- Evaluate the development of new districts.
- Gather reports and statistics from the districts.
- Attend meetings of national and administrative boards, and carry out the other administrative and jurisdictional tasks in the Global Mission Administration Manual.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In your own words, explain the general objective of the ministry of Global Mission.

2. Write three new things your learned in this lesson about the ministry of Global and Regional NMI.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

3. The class will work together on this assignment. On pieces of paper write the following list of job titles which Global Mission and NMI leaders are given. Mix up the pieces and put them face down on a table. Each student will take one piece of paper and then say one of the tasks the person with that job title is responsible for completing.

GLOBAL MISSION DIRECTOR	MESOAMERICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR	GLOBAL MISSION COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR	GLOBAL MISSION LITERATURE COORDINATOR
COORDINATOR OF COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES OF GLOBAL MISSION	GLOBAL MISSION MOBILIZATION COORDINATOR	GLOBAL NMI DIRECTOR	REGIONAL NMI DIRECTOR
MESOAMERICA GLOBAL MISSION COORDINATOR	NMI FIELD COORDINATOR	FIELD STRATEGY COORDINATOR	GENERAL ASSEMBLY



LESSON 5

The Local NMI Team

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Objectives

- To learn about the history of NMI.
- To understand the structure of NMI at the local and district levels.
- To embrace the objectives of NMI.

Main Ideas

- NMI began in 1915 as the Women's Missionary Society (WMS).
- The structure of district and local NMI exists to inform and involve local churches in global missions.
- Nazarenes participate in the global mission by praying, discipling, giving, and educating.

Introduction

On October 8, 1915, the Woman's Missionary Society was created at the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene. It became the "face" of missions in the local church and gave everyone the opportunity to participate in fulfilling the Great Commission.

The origins of what is now known as Nazarene Missions International can be traced back to October 8, 1915, when the Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) was created at the General Assembly of the Church of the Nazarene as the church's official promotional arm for missions.

General Assembly Committee on Foreign Missions recommended that there be an organization in each local church to increase knowledge and interest in missions through prayer, special mission speakers, contacting missionaries, and raising funds for missions.

In 1923, the Woman's General Missionary Committee (now the General NMI Council) was elected by the General Assembly. At the same Assembly, the first constitution was officially adopted and placed in the *Manual* of the Church of the Nazarene.

Several changes, including the name, were implemented in the decades after it was founded. The first WMS General Convention was held in Columbus, Ohio in June of 1928. That year the name was changed to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS). The next change came in 1952, when it was renamed the Nazarene Foreign Missionary Service to reflect the introduction of men, youth, and children into the organization.

In 1964 there was another name change, to Nazarene World Missionary Society, and in 1980 to the Nazarene World Mission Society. This was to reflect the international aspect of the organization. Finally, in 2001, at the General Convention which was held in Indianapolis, USA, the name changed to Nazarene Missions International (NMI), as it is now known.

In 1952, an important change allowed men to become members, making NMI an inclusive global organization. While programs and methods have been adapted and changed over the decades, the purpose and objectives remain the same. (Historical Declaration – Manual and NMI Constitution)

NMI Objectives

What are the objectives of NMI in the local church?



The first objective is **prayer**. The Global Mission movement was born out of prayer and will only survive through prayer. One of the major challenges is recruiting members and friends in prayer for all the Nazarene mission fields. Through the years, NMI has sponsored many prayer initiatives which have served the church at each stage.

The importance of prayer cannot be overstated. This is the foundation for the success of missionary work. NMI provides a multitude of prayer opportunities so that local churches can intercede for missions. Some of these include:

- Online missionary profiles
- Prayer and fasting
- Global day of prayer
- Prayer mobilization hotline
- One million hours of prayer
- The 10/40 window
- Nazarene global prayer week
- International day of prayer for the persecuted church
- Harvest Partner's Jesus Film

The second objective focuses on the importance of educating and informing members of local churches about the need for missions, its results and opportunities. Some of the channels through which NMI provide missionary education are these:

- The International Mission Education Journal (IMEJ), which consists of a shortened version of the curriculum for adults and children, simplified from its English version, and translated into several languages and dialects.
- NMI missionary books, which contain the stories of missionaries and people involved in mission work, as well as information on the departments of Global Mission.
- Holiness Today, for English readers.
- Through Missionary Tours (Deputation Services), missionaries promote becoming involved in missionary work.
- Audiovisual Resources: movies, DVDs, CDs, etc. about missions.
- Other publications that can be downloaded from the official websites of the Church of the Nazarene.

Before the Church of the Nazarene was officially organized in 1908, missionaries were already in many world areas as pioneers of the global outreach of what would become a new denomination.

The vast majority of Nazarene missionaries say they heard God's call to missions at an early age.

The third objective of NMI is **missions education** for children and teens. Though this objective has been part of NMI since its earliest days, the specific effort called “Involving Youth and Children” was added around 1964. In 2008 this was renamed “Discipling.”

A great majority of Nazarene missionaries say they heard God’s call to missions at a young age. Teens and children can be challenged to participate in missions through various means: missions education, presentations by missionaries, writing to missionaries, and practical missionary experiences.

A fourth objective of NMI is **raising funds** to finance the missionary ministry of the church. In 2002, \$55 million were received for missions through the ministries of NMI. According to a report received in 2010, more than \$44.1 million were received in WEF offerings (which exceeded the WEF goal by more than \$1.4 million), and \$25 million more were received toward Approved Mission Specials.

Resources for the Global Mission

How does NMI raise funds to finance the work of mission?



Missionary work in the Church of the Nazarene is supported primarily by offerings for the World Evangelism Fund (WEF). The main offerings raised through the ministry of NMI in local churches for WEF include these:

- Easter Offering
- Thanksgiving Offering
- Prayer and Fasting Offering
- Faith Promise

The focus of NMI for each offering is to inspire and challenge people to give. In 1991 the “Award of Excellence” was established for churches and districts which support the World Evangelism Fund by giving over 100% of their proposed budgets for WEF.

Other NMI offerings include:

- Alabaster
- World Mission Broadcast
- Medical Plan
- LINKS
- Christmas Missionary Fund
- Work and Witness
- Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

“In 1908 at the merger in Pilot Point, Texas, USA, the Church of the Nazarene began with 10,034 members, 228 congregations, 11 districts, and 21 missionaries. Now our church, young by most standards, continues to expand its spiritual and missional footprint through the 26,353 local churches – ‘the representation of our faith’”
(Report of the Board of General Superintendents, February 2011).

The Constitution of NMI

Where can one find NMI's plan for ministry?



The Manual of the Church of the Nazarene contains the Constitution for NMI, which serves as a guide to direct leaders in carrying out its functions.

The first NMI Constitution was officially adopted by the General Assembly in 1923, and it has been included in the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene ever since. During the next eight decades, NMI amended the constitution and added by-laws, creating six additional documents with constitutions and by-laws for the local church, the district and the general church. At the NMI's General Convention (now called the Global Convention) of 2005 a complete revision of the Constitution was done, and it was approved for the three constitutions to be combined into one, along with the applicable by-laws.

Altogether, the NMI Constitution and the Manual of the Church of the Nazarene have guided and provided orientation for Nazarene Missions International for many decades.

Short-term missionary experiences have become an effective tool for awakening and confirming the missionary call among Nazarene youth.

NMI in the Local Church

Who makes up the leadership of NMI in the local church?



The **NMI Council** of the local church is made up of elected and appointed officials and council members, missionary education directors for children and youth, and the pastor (ex officio). Any elected district NMI council member is an ex officio member of the NMI council at the church at which they hold their membership, with the approval of the local council.

The Local NMI Council must meet regularly (at least once a quarter) to plan, exchange ideas, share progress reports and carry out the work of the organization (see Constitution, Article VI).

The members of the Local Council, under the leadership of the president, assume the responsibility of promoting and carrying out the purpose and objectives of NMI: praying, discipling, giving, and educating (see Constitution, Article V).

The Local NMI Executive Committee is made up of the pastor (ex officio), the president, the vice-president, the secretary, the treasurer, and two other members elected by the Local Council. The executive committee can hold working sessions between regular Local Council meetings (see Constitution, Article V).

The Local Council can be as small as six members or as large as necessary to meet the needs of the church. If there are only six members, it serves as the Executive Council as well.

Council:
A meeting of leaders to make decisions on ministry matters, make work plans, set goals, give and listen to reports, evaluate what has been achieved, and decide on what they will do together.

The members of the council, either elected or assigned, can be given specific strategies, such as Prayer and Fasting, Alabaster, Missionary Care, Work and Witness, World Mission Broadcast, Jesus Film Harvest Partners, etc. Member of the Council can work together to promote their strategies (see constitution, Article V).

District NMI

Who makes up the leadership of NMI at the district level?



At the district level, NMI serves with the district superintendent, the advisory board, and the local churches as a strategic missionary team that cooperates in promoting the purpose of NMI under the leadership of a district president. The council must meet at least twice a year to plan, exchange ideas, share progress reports, and carry out the work of the organization (see Constitution, Article VI, Section 2, B).

District:

A group of Nazarene local churches located within a certain geographic area and under the leadership of a superintendent.

The **Executive Committee of the District NMI Council** is made up of the district superintendent (ex officio), the president, the vice-president, the secretary, and three other members of the council elected by the Council. The executive committee can carry out business transactions between council meetings (see Constitution, Article V, Section 2, B.3 and D.5).

The **District NMI Council** is made up of elected and appointed members, including zone members, coordinators, and youth representatives (see Constitution, Article V, Section 2).

This Council is made up of a minimum of seven members, and the maximum number depends on the needs of the district. It is important to involve as many people as possible to maximize the global impact on the district. The members of the council, under the leadership of the president, assume the responsibilities of promoting and advancing the purposes and objectives of NMI, praying, discipling, giving, and educating (see Constitution, Article V, Section 2, B.2).

Regional Coordinators for Global Mission and NMI work as a team to support each other in reaching the purposes and goals of each ministry.

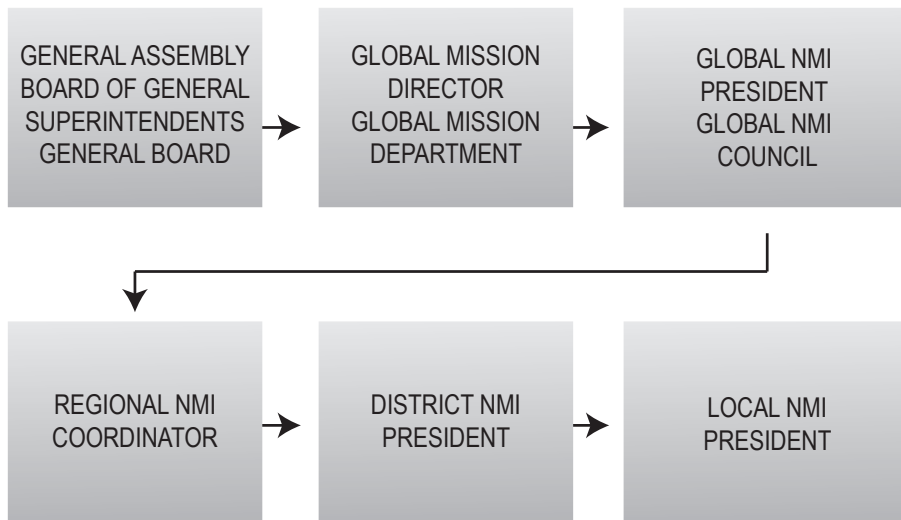
The members of the Council, either elected or appointed, can be assigned to specific initiatives, such as Prayer and Fasting, Alabaster, Missionary Care, Work and Witness, World Mission Broadcast, Jesus Film Harvest Partners, etc. The member of the Council can also work together to promote these diverse strategies (see Constitution, Article V, Section 2, D for the duties of members of the council).

The **District NMI Secretary** is responsible for gathering NMI's statistics for the district. Every church must send statistical reports when they are due to make sure the district has complete and accurate records. If a church does not send in their report after several requests, the district can use the church's statistics from the previous year.

The global NMI office updates statistical reports, both local and district, before district assemblies and releases them through the district's website or some other medium to reach all pastors and local NMI presidents.

The district secretary, or whoever is designated by the president, is responsible for sending out forms to local presidents in a timely manner (before the District Assembly), and also to receive those reports before the due date. If the district gives special recognitions, they must include special forms and inform the pastors, local presidents and churches.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHAIN: FROM GLOBAL LEADERS TO THE LOCAL CHURCH





WHAT DID WE LEARN?

The ministry of NMI has had a very important role in the history and growth of the Church of the Nazarene. District and local leaders are key for promoting and helping churches to accomplish the purpose and objectives of NMI: to pray, disciple, give and educate.



LESSON 5

The World Evangelism Fund

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Objectives

- To understand the importance of WEF.
- To learn how WEF is used.
- To become involved in “raising up” new missionaries.

Main Ideas

- WEF funds support Nazarene missions around the world.
- WEF is used to support missionaries, hospitals, literature, and offices (among others).
- The local church must be fertile ground for the “growth” of new generations of missionaries.

Introduction

What places did Jesus ask his disciples to reach with the good news of the gospel in Acts 1:8?

Just as God sent Jesus Christ to die for our sins and open a way to the Father, God also made it possible for Jesus’ ministry to continue. Through the Holy Spirit, men and women are being called to be witnesses and proclaimers of the gospel. Each of us is included in this task!

According to Acts 1:8, we must all be witnesses in the place where God shows us. For some this place will be their hometown; for others it will be a bit farther away.

What are NMI’s four objectives?

From its beginnings, the Church of the Nazarene has been a missionary church involved in fulfilling the commission to go to the ends of the earth. The denomination has also involved every one of its members in this mission. They can be involved without having to move from their communities or countries, without having to leave their possessions or family, and without having to cross cultures. NMI was created with this purpose: to expand the church throughout the world.

What is the World Evangelism Fund?

In this section we will study the meaning of WEF.



Everyone in the Church of the Nazarene can contribute to missions through their offerings. These offering can be used in different ways to evangelize within the local church, at the district level, and at the global level.

What do these words mean? World, evangelism, and fund.

When we speak of World Evangelism, we refer to offerings received through the *World Evangelism Fund*. This is how each member of the church can participate in proclaiming the gospel. The basis for this concept is that we can accomplish much more when united than when alone. If all Nazarenes unite efforts and give offerings for world evangelism, then we will be able to reach the ends of the earth with the gospel.

In summary, World Evangelism Fund is made up of the offerings of all the Churches of the Nazarene around the world, and it is used to begin, support and sustain missionary work in the world.

Why is the WEF Important for Missionaries?

WEF is indispensable for meeting the needs of missionary families.



While all are called to evangelize, God calls some people to specifically go to other countries. These people are called missionaries, and in most cases they leave their homes, families, countries and jobs to go where the church sends them to accomplish the mission they are given. Can you imagine the cost of moving a family to another country? It is easy to see that just providing transportation for a missionary and his/her family takes a lot of money.

When missionaries raise their own funds, as some sending agencies require, they must spend lots of time to raise the financial support they need. They have to speak at churches, receive offerings, collect support pledges, and pray so that the amount received will cover their expenses once they are on the missionary field. Sometimes the money is used, and these missionaries have to return to their home countries to begin the whole process again.

With this kind of support, churches do not always share the load equally in the missionary task. Sometimes bigger churches are visited by more missionaries than they can possibly help, while smaller churches are skipped altogether.

The World Evangelism Fund was created by the Church of the Nazarene to allow missionaries to work in the most effective way, and so that “all” churches would be challenged to support missions.

The World Evangelism Fund is important in three ways:

1. It gives every local church and its members the opportunity to be an active part of world evangelism through their offerings. In this way, every church is responsible for fulfilling the Great Commission. It does not matter the size of the church; each one has the responsibility of participating in the global work of missions. Just as people are blessed when they commit to giving a portion of their resources to the Kingdom of God, churches are also blessed when they generously assign funds to reach unbelievers around the world.
2. It allows missionaries to focus on their assignments, trusting that the church will provide for their basic needs.
3. Every person who gives to WEF receives the opportunity to be a part of what God is doing to restore lives in the entire world.

“...the World Evangelism Fund is made up of the offerings of all of the churches around the world, and is used to begin, support, and sustain missionary work in the world.”

What More Does WEF Accomplish?

The WEF goes towards developing churches on the missionary field.



What is my district and my local church's goals for WEF this year?

Besides moving costs, salaries and other expenses related to our missionaries, money is also needed to manage regional and field offices.

Approximately 75 percent of the World Evangelism Fund is used for world evangelism in some way or another. The rest is used to support the structure of ministries, such as administration costs, literature costs, and other resources.

The World Evangelism Fund accomplishes many things:

1. It helps ministries in 159 different world areas. The Church of the Nazarene has different ministries in each of these areas. The goal of each is to reach others with the gospel and build the church. The World Evangelism Fund helps these areas, and they can count on it to assist in financing their projects.
2. It supports more than 737 active missionaries. As we saw in the previous section, mobilizing and supporting missionaries in a new country takes money, and the World Evangelism Fund accomplishes this.
3. It helps to support more than 50 educational institutions. One of the objectives of the Church of the Nazarene has been to educate and prepare leaders to better serve the Lord. The World Evangelism Fund is there in order to maintain these institutions without asking too much from students, who often lack financial resources.
4. It helps to maintain two hospitals and many clinics. Healthcare is another area in which the Church of the Nazarene has invested. Through our hospitals and clinics, many people have not only received physical healing but have also found Jesus as their Savior. The World Evangelism Fund makes this possible.
5. It supports a retirement center and pensions for retired missionaries. Many missionaries have served the church for over 35 years. Many began when they were young, leaving behind secular jobs to obey God's call. After their time of service, the Church of the Nazarene cares for them by providing them with a pension, healthcare, and a center where they can live.
6. It provides literature in 67 languages. Literature is very important for evangelism, but there are costs for creating, designing, translating, printing, and distributing materials. This is another way in which the World Evangelism Fund is used.

Key Concepts

WEF helps us to invest, impact and involve.



Paul considered these important concepts in his work with Timothy. These same actions can guide the church today in participating in WEF: investing, impacting and involving.

To **invest** is to use a given quantity of a resource, such as money, to gain a benefit that is greater than the original quantity that was used. Paul used his time to make a visit to Lystra, where Timothy was staying. He used his energy to contact dozens of people to share the message of the gospel.

Physically, Paul was, “ready not only to be bound, but also to die,” and in Lystra he suffered one of his worst attacks when he was stoned to the point that he appeared to have died. Paul showed his dedication and effort when he returned to Lystra a second time in order to consolidate the work that had been started.

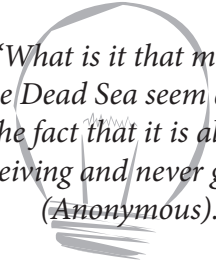
Impact describes the collision of one object with another which leaves a mark behind. It also describes the intense effect an event or information can have on the emotions of a person or group.

No doubt Paul’s ministry had an impact on Timothy’s mind and life, especially when he witnessed events such as these:

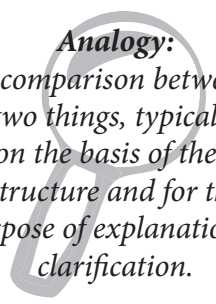
- The healing of a paralytic.
- The suffering of Paul and Barnabas when they were stoned by a crowd.
- The return of the preachers, which was a confirmation to the church of the power of the Holy Spirit through the preaching and teaching of the gospel.

To **involve** means making someone or something part of a group. It means to include. In his second missionary journey, Paul intended to take Timothy with him. He accepted the invitation, investing the rest of his life to these things:

- Visiting the churches of Asia Minor.
- Obeying God’s direction, such as in his vision of the man in Macedonia.
- Establishing new churches, such as the one in Philippi after his friends (Paul and Silas) had already been jailed.
- Responding to God’s call, even through the storm of persecution.



“What is it that makes the Dead Sea seem dead? The fact that it is always receiving and never giving” (Anonymous).



Analogy:
a comparison between two things, typically on the basis of their structure and for the purpose of explanation or clarification.

The Analogy of the Oak Tree

We must develop missionaries who are strong and resilient.



*“When we long for life
without difficulties,
remind us that oaks grow
strong in contrary winds
and diamonds are made
under pressure”
(Peter Marshall).*

When we think about Paul and what he did to shape Timothy for the ministry, we notice a couple of distinguishing aspects. First, this was only possible through the Holy Spirit. Second, it required a deep and long-term commitment on Paul’s part. The following analogy will help us to better understand what Paul did with Timothy.

The Oak is a European tree native to temperate climates; it grows in humid soil and it is one of the most sought after woods in existence. These trees live for a long time, growing for 200 years, with records of some which have lived as long as 1,600 years!

Due to its special characteristics, there are thousands of myths associated with the Oak tree. It has become a symbol of toughness, resilience, strength, vigor and longevity. The Celts had a place of honor for the oak; in fact, the etymology of the word “druid” in Gaelic means, “one who observes the oak,” since these trees were the source of inspiration for wise women and men.

When an oak is planted, the soil must always be kept humid, but not over watered; it must be kept in a sunny place where it can receive direct sunlight, preferably outside. In no time at all, it will sprout and grow large enough to be transferred to its permanent place. The Oak will grow to over 130 feet, and will have a full, leafy covering, which is why it must be planted in an appropriate place.

Ten Reasons to Plant an Oak Tree

- It can live for over 1,000 years
- It helps you to breathe more easily
- The best furniture is made from this wood
- Luxury boats are made from this wood
- It is one of the most resistant species to air pollution
- It will grow to over 130 feet, providing excellent shade
- It resists frost and flooding – it is a hardy tree
- Its acorns can feed many forest animals
- At least one time in your life, you should plant a tree.

An analogy involving missions...

Our desire for the new generations involved in missions is for them to be like Oaks:

- To transcend or impact other generations
- To be effective in their task, providing energy and enthusiasm when facing challenges

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Imagine a family is leaving your city for another country. What preparations need to be made? Place an "x" by those things which are "indispensable" or absolutely necessary.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camera | <input type="checkbox"/> Tickets | <input type="checkbox"/> Money for expenses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Passport | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo frames | <input type="checkbox"/> Books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccinations | <input type="checkbox"/> Visas | <input type="checkbox"/> Favorite foods |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luggage | <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate clothing | <input type="checkbox"/> Medicines |

Now describe what things are needed upon reaching the new country.

2. In groups of 2 or 3, reflect on the analogy of the Oak tree. Thinking about the youth and children of your church, what creative ideas could be used to do the following?

- Prepare the soil: promote an environment conducive to missions
- Sow the seed: challenge and dare
- Water and fertilize: guide their calling, involve them in ministry
- Protect: encourage the call
- Harvest: send and celebrate the fruit of the harvest
- Prune/Clean: constant care, pray for the holistic health of those sent

3. Become informed about the WEF goals for your church and district. Write ideas of how you can help reach those goals, both for you personally and as a class.

- What I could do individually is ...

- What we can do as a class is ...



LESSON 6

How to Promote WEF Offerings

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Objectives

- To become familiar with the various WEF offerings.
- To learn how to promote the WEF offerings.
- To involve the congregation in contributing to WEF.

Main Ideas

- WEF offerings have a Biblical basis.
- WEF money is designated for the specific needs of global mission.
- There are various ways of raising WEF offerings.

Tools for the World Evangelism Fund

“When we speak of ‘tools for the World Evangelism Fund’ we are referring to those instruments which form part of the driving force of the Church of the Nazarene’s missionary enterprise, which is used to cover the costs that come with world evangelism.”

In this section we will define different terms related to WEF. 

The World Evangelism Fund (WEF) is the driving force behind the Church of the Nazarene’s missionary enterprise. The foundation for this concept is that we can accomplish much more working together than we can working alone.

In order to better understand the concept, let us explore the meaning of the words. In the Oxford Dictionary, the word *fund* is defined as, “A sum of money saved or made available for a particular purpose.” The same dictionary defines the word *tool* as, “A device or implement used to carry out a particular function.”

We can conclude then that when we speak of “tools for the World Evangelism Fund” we are referring to those instruments which form part of the driving force of the Church of the Nazarene’s missionary enterprise, which is used to cover the costs that come with world evangelism.

In order for the World Evangelism Fund to work, certain tools need to be available to members of Nazarene churches around the world. These tools serve to remind people about the importance and main purpose of this fund, which is, “To proclaim the good news of salvation through Jesus to the world.”

The tools used by the World Evangelism Fund are the Easter, Thanksgiving, Prayer and Fasting, and Faith Promise offerings. Let us explore the purpose for each and some ideas on how to encourage our churches to participate.

Easter Offering

Calendar of NMI Offerings

This offering is received on Easter Sunday.



Holy Week is a special time for Christians to remember the life, passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many times we tend to think more on the sacrifice of Christ on the cross than we do concerning the triumph of His resurrection. The resurrection of Christ is the reason we have the hope of eternal life!

With His resurrection, Christ defeated sin and death, and through Him we, His children, can also have eternal life. This is the good news for humanity: God so loved the world that He sent Christ to die for our sins. If we accept Jesus as our Savior, we can also enjoy the resurrection into eternal life in His name. During Holy Week, people can be more receptive and open to hearing about Christ. What a great opportunity for evangelism!

On Easter Sunday when we remember Jesus' victory, it is a special time to think again about our lives after having known Christ and the multiple blessings we have received from Him. It is the day when we receive an offering worldwide to be used specifically for evangelism.

The offering received on Easter Sunday goes directly to the World Evangelism Fund. The sum of all offerings received in churches around the world on that day make a great difference in the missionary work of the church.

February: Alabaster
March or April/Holy Week:
Easter Offering
May: Missionary Care
June: World Mission Broadcast
August: Links
September: Alabaster
November: Thanksgiving
December: Compassion offering

Any month of the year

- Faith Promise
- Deputation

The PRAYER AND FASTING offering is received by churches when they hold prayer and fasting services (some do it once a week and others once a month).

“Would we not receive greater degrees of His blessing if we would sincerely wait before God with unappeased appetites at stated times each week, and thus enable Him to do what otherwise He is unable to accomplish? God has a way for His people to work, but it is a way of sacrifice, a way of devotion, a way of heroism. When we choose our own indolent, easy, comfortable way, then we prevent Him from accomplishing what otherwise He could bring to pass. But when we choose His way, then He can work in power and presence among us once more! Who then, is willing to do God’s work in God’s way?”

(J.G. Morrison).

Thanksgiving Offering

The Thanksgiving offering expresses our gratitude to our Heavenly Father.



The words “thank you” can be used many times during the day for many reasons. We say “thank you” to members of our family when they hand us something, to people who give us their seat on the bus, to the stranger who helps us pick up something we dropped, etc. Saying “thank you” is good manners, but how can we express our gratitude to God through our actions?

We have no way of sufficiently expressing our gratitude to God for what He has done, is doing, and will do in our lives. However, we can please God by consecrating our lives, serving with love, and obeying the One who has given us everything.

The Thanksgiving Offering is a way for us to show our gratitude to the Lord, and at the same time we are working together so that others can receive Him as their Lord and have a reason to give God thanks.

Prayer and Fasting Offering

Intercessors who pray and fast are key for the global mission.



*Faith Promise...
It's Biblical! It's dynamic!
It works!
It's a dynamic opportunity
for us to reach the world
for Christ!*

Prayer and fasting are vital for missions. It is important to challenge our church members to fast and regularly practice self-denial as the Holy Spirit guides them. Fasting intensifies our fervor for prayer and clarifies our thoughts.

The spiritual disciplines of prayer and fasting can be practiced individually, in small groups, or collectively as a church. Fasting also motivates our giving. In some congregations the Prayer and Fasting Offering is a vital part of meeting local church goals toward the World Evangelism Fund.

If some members cannot participate in abstaining completely from food for one meal or for a specified time, they can be instructed to eat less than what they normally would or to abstain from eating certain types of foods. Everyone can pray for the global mission.

Faith Promise Offering

The principle of giving applied to world evangelism.



We find the Biblical basis for Faith Promise in 2 Corinthians 8-9. These chapters contain the following elements:

- Paul sent representatives to the Christians in Corinth.
- These representatives received pledges from the Corinthians for the offering which was to help those believers in Jerusalem who had great needs.
- Paul would travel to Corinth later to collect the promised offerings.
- The offering in 2 Corinthians 8-9 was going to be used to help people whom the givers did not know. Faith Promise also goes to help other people – people who have not yet heard of Jesus Christ.

The Faith Promise offering applies the principles of 2 Cor. 8-9 to world evangelism. What an opportunity to reach the world for Christ!

Acting on faith means believing God will act, and the Christian must live by faith. A pledge is also a promise to do or accomplish something. We can make promises to other people or to God.

Faith Promise is an important way of supporting the World Evangelism Fund to reach the world for Christ. It is based on a systematic plan for giving a periodic offering instead of doing it just twice a year.

Thousands of local churches around the world are using this offering with extraordinary results. This way of giving allows believers of all kinds to

“God desires that every human being have the opportunity to hear the message of salvation that comes through Jesus Christ, God’s Son. Faith Promise is a dynamic opportunity for every believer to help reach the world for Christ!”

take giant steps of faith, discovering a new joy through giving towards world evangelism.

HOW IS FAITH PROMISE RECEIVED?



*Faith Promise:
Every person commits to giving a certain amount of money during the year, pledging by faith in God that they will give the whole amount they have promised. This money can be given weekly, monthly, or in two or three parts.*

The Faith Promise offering is a personal pledge made to God to give a certain amount of money for world evangelism for a twelve-month period. This pledge is made after much prayer and seeking the will of God regarding the amount of money to be given.

This promise to give this offering is done through faith. This means that one is trusting God to know how much should be given and to have the money to give. God is pleased when we exercise our faith (Hebrews 11:6). Once an amount has been determined under the direction of the Holy Spirit, then we can trust that God will be faithful to His promise to provide this money or reveal to us how to meet the pledge.

Faith Promises are made ahead of time, usually during a week of missionary emphasis in the church. However, the offering is received over the next twelve months. This can be given weekly, every first Sunday, in one offering, or from time to time.

Women and men creatively work with God, using their energy and ability to provide new financial resources for global missionaries. Husbands and wives become better stewards of their finances, earning extra money

Why should I make a faith promise?

and saving more. Children and teens learn to better put into practice the Biblical principle that God blesses us so we can be a blessing to others. These believers gain strength when they see their resources being used by God to reach non-believers.

Through Faith Promise, people pray about the amount they will give to missions (which goes above and beyond their tithe). This amount can be given weekly, biweekly or monthly. Over time, churches notice they are able to raise the amount to help missions, and they often go beyond their goal by using this plan.

In some churches, the pastor, board and members of the congregation agree on the total amount of money they will together give to the World Evangelism Fund. Together, they take responsibility for receiving this amount through the involvement of all church members. In these instances, the church sets a goal for Faith Promise, and individual members do the same. Many times the sum of all the offerings is more than the goal the church had set.

Faith Promise is not the same as giving our tithe or giving to other missionary offerings. It is an opportunity for each member of the church to give toward missions as the Spirit guides them.

IDEAS FOR RAISING FUNDS FOR FAITH PROMISE	
Better stewardship of your money	It could be that God will guide you to live a simpler life, to give something up, or to reorder your priorities.
Some extra work	Maybe God will lead you to earn some money on the side, sell some of your belongings, or make and sell food or crafts. The idea is to seek God for a way to give money so that others hear about Christ.
Unexpected income	Sometimes God sends us money in dramatic or unexpected ways. It could be a raise, an unexpected job that will pay well, an inheritance, a special offering for your ministry, etc. It is important to recognize that everything comes from God and that we must use it for God's glory and purposes.

Ideas for Promoting the World Evangelism Fund

How do we encourage the church to participate in FEM?



Many times church members do not know about the meaning, importance, and use of the World Evangelism Fund. A lack of communication can lead to people not giving offerings. If they do support WEF, they may do so without understanding its purpose. Keeping the church informed will help everyone to participate in WEF with greater interest and enthusiasm.

The best thing to do is begin to plan at least one month before the date of the offering. Here are some ideas:

1. Ask your pastor for a time during service when you can make an announcement about a monthly emphasis on missionary offerings. Explain the meaning, importance, and purpose of WEF. Ask the congregation for prayer so their church can be blessed as they give and contribute to world evangelism.
2. Prepare a short skit.
3. In every prayer meeting, have prayer for the day when the offering will be received. This includes not only the financial goal amount, but also the purpose: world evangelism.
4. If possible, during each church service, share information about countries which have not been reached with the gospel.
5. Prepare a bulletin board or announcement. Use your creativity to design it so it will attract everyone's attention. Then place it in a visible spot, and ask the congregation to take time to read it. In it, explain the meaning, importance, and use of missionary offerings.
6. Prepare posters with basic information about WEF, such as the specific offering, the date it will be received, and what it will be used for. You can make the poster design a competition between the children and youth. To finish, you can place your posters in different places in the church building or give them to families so they can take them home to remember the offering.

“If my feet cannot go, my dollars will”
(Anonymous).

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

There are many ways to receive the World Evangelism fund offerings. One way is through faith promise offerings, which are given with much effort and personal sacrifice. Every person and family should pray, asking God's direction to know how much God wants them to give for world evangelism.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The Bible encourages us to be thankful to God. Find the following Biblical passages and write how the Scriptures encourage us to express our gratitude.

1 Corinthians 15:5 _____

Psalm 100 _____

1 Thessalonians 5:18 _____

2. Think of three creative ideas (not included in the lesson) to promote WEF in your local church.

3. In groups of 3 or 4 make an acrostic with the words "World Evangelism Fund." The words on the acrostic must come from what we studied in this lesson. For example, the two offerings related to it, the Easter offering, prayer and fasting, etc. When the groups are done, each will present their acrostic to the rest of the class.



LESSON 7

Special
NMI
Offerings

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Objectives

- To become familiar with the special NMI offerings.
- To identify giving opportunities.
- To gain awareness of the purpose of the offerings.

Main Ideas

- God's plan is for His missionary work to be generously supported by His people.
- A life committed to Christ results in generosity.
- The special NMI offerings include these: Alabaster, Missionary Care, World Mission Broadcast, LINKS, Deputation and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries.

This world is full of opportunities to do good and to show our love. However, we seldom take advantage of opportunities to give.

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'"
(Acts 20:35).

Introduction

The Word of God states, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35, NIV). But when the opportunity comes to give, sometimes it is not so simple. This is the reality faced when the opportunity comes to collect NMI offerings. Some people do not have a good attitude toward NMI leaders when they are simply doing their job of promoting offerings. Others neglect their giving since they have no conviction to give, and others do not take advantage of the opportunity to give because they do not want to.

Let us look at the meanings of some important words used in this lesson as defined by the Oxford Dictionary:

Opportunity: A set of circumstances that makes it possible to do something.

To give: Freely transfer the possession of (something) to (someone); hand over to.

Special: Designed or organized for a particular person, purpose, or occasion.

Offering: A thing offered, especially as a gift or contribution. A contribution, especially of money, to a church. A thing offered as a religious sacrifice or token of devotion.

After reviewing the meaning of these words, we are now ready to learn more about the special NMI offerings.

What Are Special NMI Offerings?

Why should we participate in special offerings?



The real meaning of a Christian offering is this: gifts or sacrifices offered to God in worship to meet specific needs for ministry.

Why should we participate in special offerings? Because in God’s work, special needs emerge all the time, and it is through special offerings that we have an opportunity to participate in what God is doing and see that these needs are met.

Special offerings, as their name describes, have specific objectives and purposes, which are clearly identified. Now when it comes to involving the congregation, it is important for everyone to understand the reasons for participating.

Reasons for Giving

What did the Apostle Paul teach about giving offerings?



In 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 the Apostle Paul presents in a deliberate and comprehensive manner a series of reasons for “Christian giving” at all times.



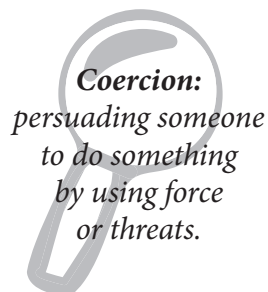
The Macedonian Christians “gave themselves first of all to the Lord.” In other words, before giving their money they gave their lives over to the Lord. As a result, their offerings were a natural outflow of their personal surrender to God. They understood nothing else mattered if they did not first give themselves to the Lord (2 Cor. 8:5).

1. Testimony of Sacrificial Giving

The Apostle Paul inspired Corinthians to give by first telling them about, “the grace God has given the Macedonian churches,” referring to Corinth’s neighbors to the north.

In verses 1-5, Paul explains what allowed the Macedonian churches to give so generously. His answer? The main factor was the grace God gave them, not their own generosity.

The Macedonians gave despite their own circumstances; they knew what it meant to be poor and to suffer. This can many times produce bitterness, but this did not happen with them since they had abundant joy.



On occasions poverty can cause selfishness, but once again the Macedonians were generous and not selfish. To give freely implies generosity, joy and a spirit that does not only think of the financial bottom line (v. 2).

The Apostle Paul's next statement is a paradox. The Macedonians, "gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." "As much as they were able," implies a limitation; they could only give as much as they had. However, "even beyond their ability," recognizes how they gave so freely. That is, they made do without some of the things they needed in order to meet the more urgent and pressing needs of the Jewish brothers and sisters. Only God's grace in them made it possible for them to be so generous (v.3).

The Macedonian Christians gave voluntarily. There are times when people use coercion, manipulation or persuasion to secure abundant gifts from people. However, the Macedonian Christians begged Paul to allow them to participate in the offering for the saints in Jerusalem. This was a special offering to meet a specific need. Christians were suffering from famine (Acts 11:28-30 and Romans 15:25-27). We see they did not give in order to please Paul; they were not coerced, but instead gave out of their desire to be part of God's kingdom. The Apostle Paul did not beg them or force them to give; they begged him to be allowed to give (v.4).

The Macedonian Christians, "gave themselves first of all to the Lord." In other words, before giving their money, they gave their lives over to the Lord. As a result, their offerings were a natural outflow of their personal surrender to God. They understood that nothing else mattered if they did not first give themselves to the Lord (v.5).

In this way the Apostle Paul tells the Corinthians that the Macedonian's testimony of sacrificial giving should motivate them to give in the same way, with generosity.

2. Evidence of Love

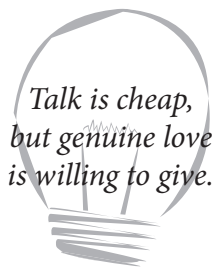
In verse 8 the Apostle presents another reason to give generously: he suggests that the Corinthian's offering for the saints in Jerusalem would prove the sincerity of their love. Talk is cheap, but genuine love gives.

The Apostle James speaks along the same lines as Paul in James 2:15, 16. He presents the following question: "Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"

The two apostles agree that talking about faith without making it visible in one's life is not true faith. In the same way, proclaiming one's love without demonstrating it in tangible ways is a sign that the love is not real.

3. Example of Christ

In verse 9, the Apostle Paul points to our Lord Jesus Christ as a reason for giving. In dying on the cross, our Lord Jesus gave up His rights as Son of



"Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did"
(1 John 2:6).

God so we might enjoy the privilege of becoming children of God. The New Testament presents our Lord Jesus as our example to follow (1 Peter 2:21, 1 John 2:6).

The New Testament also points out that a Christian must love like Jesus loved (Ephesians 5:2), forgive like Jesus forgave (Colossians 3:13), be holy like Jesus was holy (1 Peter 1:15), and have the same mind as Jesus (Philippians 2:5). Paul even adds that we must give like Jesus gave. All through His life He gave. He gave health to the sick, compassion to the lonely, strength to the weak, direction to the lost, encouragement to the fearful, and His own life to the world. As His followers, with Him as our example, we must also give.

4. Benefit to the Givers

In verses 10-12 and 16, the Apostle urges the Corinthians to give generously to the offering because this would be good for them. Why?

The Corinthians had started their efforts to receive this offering the year before, but their good intentions had not translated into action. Refusing to keep their promise and continue what they had started damaged their reputation. The Christians in Macedonia and Jerusalem might have thought, "All that those Corinthians do is talk! They say they will help, but they do not mean it!"

How could the Corinthians recover their lost reputation? They could achieve their goal and collect the offering, and this is why Paul suggests that giving the offering would be to their own benefit. Verse 16 gives a more complete response. Why does the Apostle say that Titus had the same concern for the Corinthians? Because Titus knew that giving the offering for the Jews and for God's work would be a blessing for the Corinthians themselves.

Like Titus, what child of God has not confirmed that it is more blessed to give than to receive? Giving is an invigorating, life-giving spiritual discipline. For the believer, giving toward the Lord's work is not an obligation but an opportunity to participate in what God is doing. Giving leads us to a place of spiritual reward. This is why the Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthians to give since it would be of benefit for them as well.

5. Equality in Christ

In verse 13 the Apostle gives one more reason for giving. The basis for his suggestion is the concept of the Church as the body of Christ. Each Christian is a part of Christ's body, and each one has a role to fulfill. It is necessary to work together, supporting and complementing one another so that the body can function effectively.

In vs. 14 Paul declares, "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality..."

For the believer, giving toward the Lord's work is not an obligation but an opportunity to participate in what God is doing. Giving leads us to a place of spiritual reward.

What personal experiences have you had when you have given generously?

Do you know of any projects that were possible thanks to the Alabaster offering?

Back in those days the material needs of the Corinthians were being met while Jewish Christians were living in poverty. Since the Church is a body, the Corinthian's abundance should have been used to help the poverty of the Palestinians. Later circumstances might change so that the abundance of the Jews might be used to counteract the poverty of the Corinthians. Or maybe the Apostle also meant that, just as Christians in Jerusalem had provided spiritual riches in sharing the gospel with the Gentiles (Romans 15:25-27), now Corinthian believers could meet the physical needs of the Christians in Jerusalem. Paul encouraged the Corinthians to give because mutual giving would be of benefit for all involved.

In vs. 15 Paul recalls the principle of equality, citing Exodus 16:18, when God provided manna for the Hebrews. Some collected more, others less. However, everyone had what they needed. This is true in regard to our relationship with material goods. Everyone should gather what they need, share what they can, and try not to hoard God's blessings. This is true in our relationship to material things as well. Every person should gather what they need, share what they can, and not hold tightly to God's blessings. God distributed His manna equally among the Hebrews in the dessert. Paul urged the Corinthians to voluntarily promote equality of resources through their willingness to give.

What are the Special NMI Offerings and What is the Purpose of Each?

We have the great privilege of contributing towards many needs.



Alabaster is used to buy and build properties, churches, hospitals, houses, schools, etc. These buildings provide people with a place to worship, to receive healing, to be taught, to grow spiritually, to provide rest for ministers and their families, and many other things.

Missionary Health Care provides medicines, surgery, treatment, glasses, and hearing aids (among other things). It is used to provide insurance for medical expenses for missionaries.

World Mission Broadcast makes it possible to reach the unreachable, to take the message of the gospel even to people who live in inaccessible places which can only be reached through media. Radio, television, and Internet make it possible to proclaim the gospel thanks to the coordination of Communication centers in the six Global Mission Regions.

LINKS. Each district is assigned a missionary or missionary couple every two years. The offerings collected for them in the local churches are sent to the district's NMI treasurer (or however it is handled in that district). The offering is sent to the field office, which takes care of sending it to the missionaries.

Colosse:
A city close to Laodicea (now Turkey) from which came a number of Paul's coworkers. It was a Christian community. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 65 A.D.

Deputation. The Church of the Nazarene sends its missionaries “home” every two years to promote missions and hold special services at local churches. That is where churches can contribute to meet specific needs such as purchasing equipment and vehicles, deputation expenses, and other expenses directly related to missionary ministry.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. This offering goes to countries and people who are suffering due to drought, famine, homelessness, natural disasters, and even political crises. The Church of the Nazarene responds with items such as care packages, sponsoring children to provide them food or education, local volunteer opportunities, etc.

Advice on Receiving These Offerings

How are these offerings received, and what are the benefits of giving?



Not everyone has the gift for this ministry of promoting offerings. The person chosen must be a person of integrity who is careful with how they deal with money. Any ministry which involves receiving money in the church must be done with transparency, giving reports to leaders and contributors to avoid any suspicion regarding the handling of funds. When we manage money for the work of the Lord, we must be at our best.

Giving comes from a committed life. Those who receive NMI offerings must encourage people to follow the Macedonian’s example who first gave themselves to the Lord before giving their money. Many believers give little and without motivation. However, committed believers do not ask about the minimum to give; they ask how much more they can give. They give with joy, taking advantage of any opportunity to contribute to God’s kingdom.

We will never be able to repay the Lord for what He has done for us, so people must be reminded that just giving for the work of God is not enough – giving must be accompanied by a right attitude. God loved the world so much that He gave His Son for us. Any offering given in response to this gift which is not generous or given with joy is not adequate.

Giving results in intangible blessings for the giver. Not all blessings can be counted or measured. Churches that give generously will be blessed and will prosper in many ways.

*“Any church that is not seriously involved in helping fulfill the Great Commission has forfeited its biblical right to exist”
(Oswald J. Smith).*



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

The challenge for NMI leaders is that they and their churches take advantage of opportunities to contribute to Special NMI offerings. Our willingness to give to the Lord’s work is the clearest evidence of our faithfulness and love to the Lord.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The following list includes qualities of a person that can motivate others to give to missionary offerings. Do a self-evaluation to see whether you have some of these qualities.

- Good administrator
- Organized and meticulous about money
- Transparent
- Motivator
- Passion for missions
- Good character
- Creative
- Subject to his/her leaders
- Able to give clear reports
- Good at math
- Respected by others

2. Order the columns, matching the appropriate letter from the right column with the correct Scripture passage in the left column.

	Scripture		Truth Statement About Giving
	Luke 6:36	A	Give with mercy
	Psalms 112:1,9	B	Giving freely results in blessings
	James 2:15,16	C	You will reap what you sow
	Galatians 6:7-10	D	Good intentions are not enough
	Proverbs 11:24, 25	E	Those who fear the Lord give to the poor

3. In teams of 3 or 4, examine your church's attitude toward giving by answering the following questions based on the five reasons we studied in this lesson. Use the following guide in your evaluation:

A: Excellent/Very Good, B: Good, but can improve, C: Bad, changes are necessary

- ___ How does our church do in giving generously?
- ___ What testimony is our church giving through participation in Special Offerings?
- ___ What examples do our leaders give regarding giving?
- ___ What kind of support do other church ministries give in organizing and promoting Special Offerings in a big way?



LESSON 8

The LINKS Program

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Missions

Objectives

- To learn about the purpose of LINKS
- To make a commitment to support missionaries
- To involve others in this program.

Main Ideas



- The LINKS program connects church members with missionaries on the field.
- Caring for the things Christ cared for means selflessly caring for the wellbeing of others, in this case for missionaries.

Introduction

The Church of the Nazarene's "LINKS" program is a network which connects the local church to missionaries around the world. The word is an acronym which stands for, "Loving, Interested Nazarenes, Knowing and Sharing." Every missionary or missionary couple is assigned to the churches in a district. This gives every church an opportunity to have personal contact with a missionary family to support them and their ministry.

The Importance of the LINKS Program

Why should we be connected with our missionaries?



The Oxford Dictionary defines the world link as: "A ring or loop in a chain." In the model of the early church, we can see how local churches were connected to their missionaries. The Apostle Paul wrote to his church in Philippi encouraging them to care for the unity among brothers/sisters in Christ:

"The main problem of missions is not money – as is often believed – but unwilling human hearts" (Steeff van T Slot).

"...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others" (Philippians 2:2-4).

Paul encourages the church to strive to maintain the unity with those who are serving in ministry, in their thoughts, attitudes, love, spirit, and purpose. Caring for the things Christ cared for also means selflessly caring for the wellbeing of others, in this case for missionaries.

The following graphic helps to appreciate the importance of this program:

IMPORTANCE OF THE LINKS PROGRAM



How Does LINKS Work?

Every district is responsible for supporting a missionary family.



LINKS provides an opportunity for each district and local church to get to know missionaries in a more personal way and receive information about the work they are doing in their field of service.

Every two years, the General NMI Office, in coordination with regional NMI coordinators assigns a missionary or missionary family to each district. Originally these missionaries were only assigned to Phase 3 districts, but today they are assigned to all districts so all of them have the same opportunity to support them.

Each district NMI president receives information from the missionary or missionary family that includes a photograph, biographical information, an address, important dates for the family, and prayer requests, both personal and ministry related.

LINKS functions by having people become involved in the lives of missionaries through praying, caring, and participating. The following sections will explain how each of these "links" works.

"We desire for the youth of our churches to give their lives to God to serve in the mission field, but most of us are not willing to give our wallets or bank accounts to sustain them to serve at the same time"
(Paul B. Smith).

C.S. Lewis called praying for our loved ones a "sweet duty."

The Prayer Link

Missionaries need the intercessory prayers of the church.



Paul and Barnabas' ministry began when the leaders of the church in Antioch prayed, fasted and sought the Lord. After the Holy Spirit called them, the leaders laid hands on them and sent them to the mission field. They went through many difficult trials as they were sent and supported in their ministry, going from city to city evangelizing, discipling, and establishing pastors in new churches. All of this was possible because they had sisters and brothers in Christ interceding for them in prayer (Acts 13).

All missionaries have to face many challenges. They constantly face the trial of discouragement when they have to live in a foreign country and minister cross-culturally. Missionaries sometimes experience health problems. With their family and friends being far away, they rely on the prayers of the churches who will sustain them through times of warfare or danger. When they face these challenges, missionaries are comforted to know their friends and family are interceding for them and laying their needs before the Father in prayer.

As they go from place to place doing the work of ministry, our missionaries face the challenge of dealing with foreign languages, and many times they also face dangers. It is the prayer of their church which sustains them and helps them to continue on.

In adopting a missionary family, each district should consider them part of their own congregation as they pray for them.

The Caring Link

As human beings, missionaries need others to care for them.



Most missionaries who have college-aged children face the difficult challenge of being physically separated from them since many must move back to their countries of origin in order to study.

These youth also face challenges. For many it is a great challenge to live apart from their families, work in order to pay for their studies, and at the same time attend classes, study, and do homework. It is during this stage that missionary kids are confronted with many temptations, and so they need the church to care for them and pray for their needs.

Other missionaries have their children with them, and they also need the church to get to know them, to share in their experiences, and if at all possible to invite them to attend their church to share about what they are doing.

LINKS

provides an opportunity to maintain fellowship and collaboration between districts, churches and missionaries.

It is important to remember that missionaries are not just leaders; they are also human beings who many times feel discouraged, face problems and suffer. There are many ways to support them and let them know that their LINKS church family cares for them.

The Participation Link

Deputation gives churches an opportunity to participate.



Global missionaries must go on home assignment (also called deputation) in their home country. Some missionaries also go on home assignment in countries or districts which have adopted them through LINKS.

When a missionary comes to a district on home assignment, it is an excellent opportunity to invite them to your local church. Sometimes the missionary will be from your country. In any case, it is appropriate to plan a special welcome so members of the church have an opportunity to speak with and get to know the missionary family.

During home assignment trips, churches hold NMI services and invite the missionaries to speak. At the end of the service a special offering is received to help support the missionary's ministry. It is important not to receive the offering before the missionary's presentation. It is also important to let the congregation know ahead of time that the missionary is coming and that an offering will be received so they can be ready and motivated to give.

Usually the offerings received at the local churches are sent to the General Treasurer, where they are distributed for the purchase of equipment, home furnishings, special projects, and other items to support the ministry approved by the Global Mission Office.

Some churches also give a special offering so the missionary family can meet other personal needs. This is a good way to show our love and care to our missionaries. In Acts 2:40-47 we are encouraged to be in fellowship with one another. Verse 42 especially highlights the word **communion**, "which means to share, a close partnership, participation, a community, fellowship, contributing, brotherhood. **Koinonia** is the unity produced by the Holy Spirit. In **koinonia** the individual maintains a close fellowship with the rest of the Christian community. **Koinonia** joins believers of the Lord Jesus with one another" (translation from Riqueza Literaria. Biblia Plenitud, Reina Valera, 1960).

In Romans 15:14-33, Paul writes about he was longing to visit and minister to the church in Rome to tell them of the wonders God was doing in the mission field, and to find support and encouragement from the brothers and sisters, thus gaining strength to continue on his missionary journey.

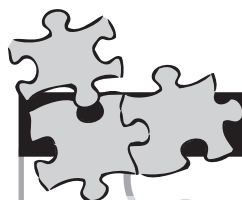


"LINKS is a wonderful tool which gives churches opportunities to give support to those who are taking the message of salvation to a world living without God and without hope."

Just as with the Apostle Paul, communication between local churches and missionaries gives the churches the opportunity to learn about the missionary work the Church of the Nazarene is doing, and it provides missionaries support and encouragement for their ministry.

By communicating with missionaries, we can better understand the purpose behind our missionary offerings. The World Evangelism Fund supports the work of missionaries around the world. The testimonies and information they share with the church in their letters or email messages helps congregations to know where the offerings they are giving to NMI are going, and it motivates them to give sacrificially so that the ministry will continue to advance.

Through the Holy Spirit, God calls the church to send missionaries. The church recognizes and sends them and is then responsible for lifting them up in prayer. But that is not where it ends. The church also participates in the missionary's ministry by caring for the work they are doing, participating with them, and supporting them with offerings. LINKS is a wonderful tool which gives churches opportunities to give support to those who are taking the message of salvation to a world living without God and without hope.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

LINKS is an excellent means of supporting and walking with missionaries through prayer, communication and offerings.

Activities

Time



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have you had the opportunity to participate in the LINKS program? Describe your experience.

2. In your own words, what does LINKS mean?

3. If you wanted encourage a brother or sister to become involved in the LINKS program, how would you do it?

4. Divide the class in three groups. Each group will do one of the following tasks and later share their responses with the rest of the class.

Group 1: Come up with three concrete actions your class could do to support your “adopted” missionaries in prayer.

Group 2: Come up with three concrete actions your class could do to show interest in your “adopted” missionary family.

Group 3: Come up with three concrete actions your class can implement to participate with your “adopted” missionaries.

Final evaluation

Time



COURSE: THE LOCAL CHURCH: FOUNDATION FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

Name of Student: _____
Church or Study Center: _____
District: _____
Professor: _____
Date of this evaluation: _____

1. *Why is the NMI ministry in your local church so important?*

2. *What are World Evangelism Fund offerings used for?*

3. *What is the purpose of the LINKS program?*

4. *What did you learn from the ministry practice activities in this course?*

5. *How could this course be improved?*

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About this book

The Local Church: Foundation for Global Mission reviews the origin of missions in the Church of the Nazarene, as well as its vision of making Christlike disciples in the nations. It further describes how as an organization, Nazarene Missions International (NMI) links the local church team with Global Mission leaders, provides support through the World Evangelism Fund, and explains how the LINKS program supports missionary families around the world.



The author

Ana María Crocker de Díaz is a global missionary in the Church of the Nazarene. She has served for almost 30 years as president and coordinator of Nazarene Missions International in Central Guatemala on the MAC Central Field and the Mesoamerica Region. Her task is to develop mission leaders and provide resources to mobilize local churches in the mission of making Christlike disciples through prayer, education, youth and children's involvement, and support of the denomination's missionary work through offerings. She lives in Guatemala with her 3 children and 2 grandchildren where they all serve the Lord in different ministries.

School of Leadership

School of Leadership brings a fresh approach to ministry training. The program consists of five core courses and six ministry specialties. The five core courses are the biblical foundation for a thriving ministry in today's church. The six ministry specialties focus on a specific area of ministry (youth, missions, etc.), preparing leaders through carefully crafted courses. The School of Leadership is designed to speak to both new and experienced leaders by introducing new ideas, tools, and resources to raise their quality of ministry in practical ways that are relevant to the modern church.

Core Level

Discovering My Vocation in Christ
The DNA of the Nazarenes
Worship as a Lifestyle
The Bible and Its Message
Principles for Christian Life

Ministry Specialties

Christian Discipleship
Evangelism
Ministerial Leadership
Youth Ministry
Compassionate Ministries
Cross-Cultural Missions

For more information, visit: EduNaz.org

