

CROSS-CULTURAL MISSIONS

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

How to raise up and support the new generations of missionaries before, during and when they return "home"

SCOTT A. ARMSTRONG



The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Cross-Cultural Missions Course

Church of the Nazarene

Mesoamerica Region

Scott Armstrong



The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries
A book in the School of Leadership series.
A 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?

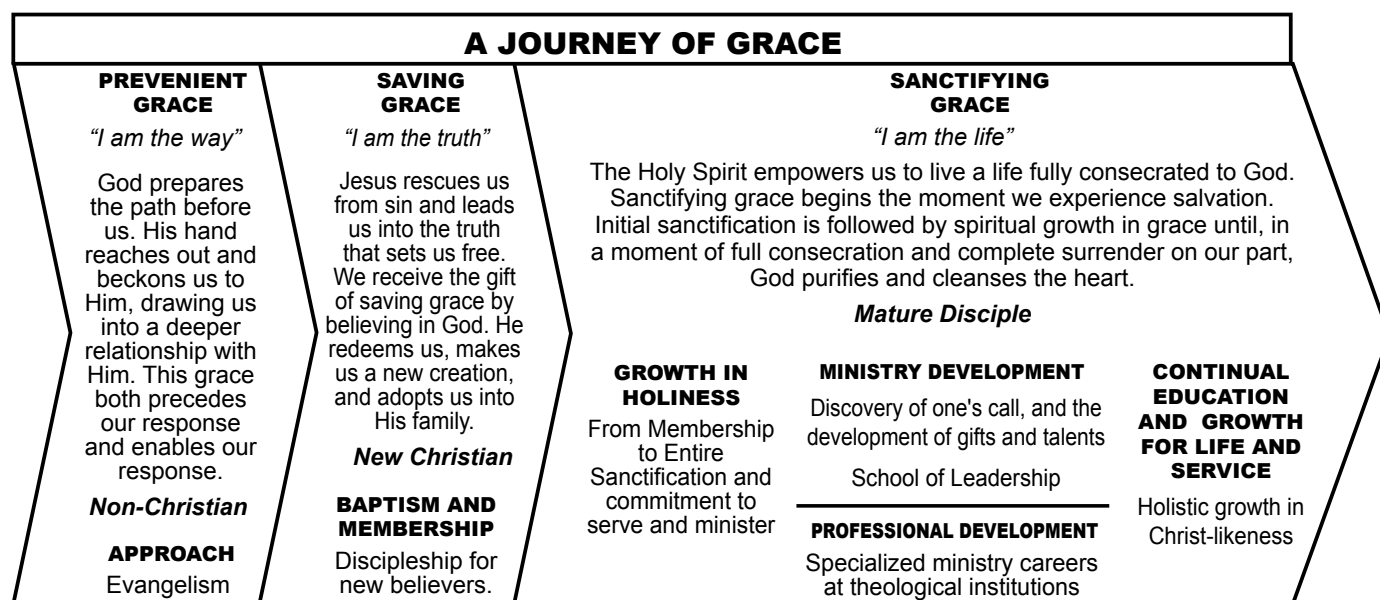
The **School of Leadership** is an educational program for lay ministry in different specialties to engage in the mission of the local church. This program is administered by the Theological Institutions of the Church of the Nazarene in the Mesoamerica Region and taught both at these institutions and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

1. Organize fifteen days of prayer for a missionary family. Involve children and youth by using the daily prayer guide provided in Lesson 1. Use a pamphlet to provide information about the missionary family.
2. Organize a missionary service for children with creative activities that emphasize the missionary call.
3. Plan a movie and popcorn night for the youth and show a movie about missionaries. Afterwards have a time for questions and thoughts about the missionary call.
4. Conduct a survey of the children and youth in the church to identify those who have some interest in the missionary call.
5. Organize a short-term mission trip or Maximum Mission project (one day) for children and/or youth.
6. Prepare a PowerPoint presentation about the ways in which missionaries serve in the Church of the Nazarene and present it in a missionary service.
7. Find information about missionaries who are on furlough/deputation in your district during the next few months and organize a special welcome for them, including things such as food, gifts, a time of testimonies, etc. Involve all church members in this special event.
8. Plan a special activity for youth that will provide them information about the programs they can participate in as volunteer missionaries (Lesson 6).



LESSON 1

Prayer and Missions

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Objectives

- To recognize the importance of praying for missions.
- To become familiar with NMI's resources for praying for missions.
- To be involved in praying for missions and missionaries.

Main Ideas

- Praying for missions softens our hearts to God's calling.
- Praying is the most important thing we can do for missions.
- Praying for missionaries is our responsibility and privilege.

Introduction

What is prayer? The simplest definition is that prayer consists of having a conversation with God. Prayer is not just talking; it is also hearing God's voice. Because of this, when praying it is necessary to have times of silence in order to hear His voice.

The most important thing about prayer is that it gives us times of deep communion with God.

Prayer is how God communicates with His people, the Church. All of God's children, be they laypersons or pastors, everyone who has been washed by the blood of the Lamb and has confessed Christ as Lord and Savior in their lives, has the blessed privilege of talking with God through prayer.

Efficient prayer must be permeated by a genuine and sincere faith. Those who pray must approach the throne of grace with confidence and humility, accepting and yielding to the will of God.

The Bible teaches that prayer is the key to the advancement of God's kingdom in the world. In this section we will learn about the resources Nazarene Missions International makes available to churches so we might together intercede for missions and for missionaries who serve the church.

Prayer Provides the Main Support for Missions

Prayer is the fuel for doing missions.



"Praying is not the least we can do, it is the most important thing we can do."

It is only when we finally understand the importance of prayer that we come to evaluate our own prayer habits and ask, "How often do I pray to God?" We must be careful not to conform and think, "Well, at least I am praying." Someone once said, "*Praying is not the least we can do, it is the most important thing we do.*"

One of NMI's objectives is to involve the church in praying for missions, and to accomplish this they promote different strategies and emphases.

Nothing will connect us to the Lord in a more powerful and consistent manner than prayer. Through prayer, Christ's disciples have the opportunity

Prayer is a powerful tool God uses to develop in children an awareness of the needs on the mission field. When a family prays for missionaries, the hearts of their children become fertile ground for God's calling. Parents are the best role models to teach their children a love for missions work as they work together to help, pray for, and become involved in the lives of missionaries.

Praying for missions increases our faith and generosity to give to missions. The believer starts to develop an expectation that God will be at work in the mission field and listens to news about mission work with more interest. He or she can then say with joy, "With the grace of God I was able to contribute to these victories for the kingdom of God." The believer's trust in the Lord grows as he or she listens to and responds to the faith of His children.

Lastly, praying for missions strengthens our unity as God's people and as an international family and denomination with one mission. We need to strengthen each other by prayer to fulfill the mission of taking the message of the gospel to the whole world, until every people group and every family has had the opportunity to come to know the Savior.

Prayer and Fasting Services

Why do we need to pray and fast?



Prayer and fasting are keys to the growth of missions. For this reason the emphasis on prayer and fasting should not be limited to one month. NMI provides special opportunities so that individuals, small groups, and congregations can be involved in prayer and fasting throughout the year.

Local churches usually take one day a week to pray and intercede for prayer requests from leaders from regions around the world. Many times they also receive an offering to support the World Evangelism Fund (WEF).

NMI provides a Weekly Prayer Line that is sent out every Wednesday via email to church leaders (District and Local NMI Presidents, District Superintendents, and Pastors). This list includes prayer requests from regional offices, field offices, districts, and local churches in the Church of the Nazarene.

How Can We Pray for Our Missionaries?

A daily prayer guide.



Missionaries and their families face challenges and tests every day, and they need the church to be praying for them continually. NMI provides the following prayer guide, which for each day of the week has a different focus of the life and ministry of those who are serving around the world.

"Prayer begins where human capacity ends"
(Marian Anderson).

Prayer is the best way to intercede for missionaries and for those who are beginning to hear God's call to serve as cross-cultural missionaries.

Sunday: Pray for a strong spiritual life, and for a closer walk with God.

Like any other person, a missionary needs times to be spiritually refreshed. This is no different than those who are in the ministry. Pray that they will take time to be filled with God so that they will rely on God's strength and not their own.

Monday: Pray for intellect.

Missionaries need to study and learn constantly, including new languages and new cultures. They also need to adjust their lifestyles and customs. Pray that their minds will be open and receptive to new experiences.

Tuesday: Pray for good relationships with others on the missions team.

It is crucial for people who serve in the missionary field together to have good relationships in order to produce fruit that honors God. Local leaders and missionaries must understand each other, love each other, and work together, giving their gifts and abilities to spread the kingdom of God.

Wednesday: Pray for physical wellbeing.

In their travels, missionaries face the risk of contracting illnesses, such as malaria, which can be deadly. Being sick in a foreign country can be scary, even more so when healthcare is not available. Missionaries also face situations which can place them in physical danger. Many travel frequently, drive on badly kept roads, and face multiple dangers.

Thursday: Pray for mental and emotional wellbeing.

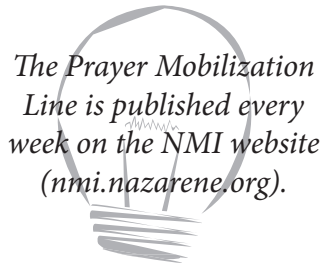
Like all people, missionaries are not immune to discouragement and need to remain centered in God. Missionaries are role models to other believers, both in the way they live and in the way they serve, and this can be stressful. Missionaries must be able to make decisions in difficult situations and be courageous in facing them.

Friday: Pray for the families of missionaries.

A missionary's family can include children, siblings, parents, and other loved ones. Some of them might be Christians, some not. Some may be facing physical, spiritual, or emotional difficulties which can put stress on the missionaries who have to be apart from their families. Pray for peace, joy and good communication between the missionaries and their families.

Saturday: Pray for balanced work schedules.

Missionaries need wisdom to set their agendas and schedules according to God's will.



Special Times of Prayer for Missions

Are there designated times to have special prayer for missions?



NMI has a prayer calendar to guide churches in specific prayer topics to advance Nazarene missions globally throughout the year. Below are some of these dates.

Countries where the church is persecuted:

Afghanistan
Algeria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Bahrain
Belarus
Bhutan
Brunei
Burma (Myanmar)
Chechnya
China
Colombia
Comoros
Cuba
Djibouti
Egypt
Eritrea
Ethiopia
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Jordan
Kyrgyzstan
Kuwait
Laos
Libya
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritania
Morocco
Nigeria
North Korea
Oman
Pakistan
Palestine
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Somalia
Sudan
Syria
Tajikistan
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Vietnam
Yemen

The Nazarene World Week of Prayer is held toward the end of February and the first week of March. This is a time to pray for the needs within each world region. Prayer requests are published on NMI's webpage one week before.

The Global Day of Prayer falls on Pentecost Sunday. Following the example of the first believers who were "joined together constantly" in prayer (Acts 1:14) until they were filled with the Spirit, the Global Day of Prayer calls Christians of every nation to be united in prayer. This day is preceded by 40 days of prayer organized by the districts, which culminate in a combined service focused on these prayer themes:

- Seeking God personally (repentance and prayer).
- Unity to bless and heal the nations.
- The Holy Spirit's transformational work in people and local churches.
- Friendship and collaboration.
- Flexibility.
- Cultural adaptation.
- Intergenerational relationships.
- Humility/brokenness.
- Creativity.

Evangelical churches around the world unite on the second Sunday of November for the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). NMI also encourages Nazarenes to gather on this date, providing opportunities for Christians to pray for those who are suffering for their faith. The website www.idop.com has information about current needs.

During September churches pray for the countries in the 10/40 Window, which are the eastern hemisphere countries located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator covering northern Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. The majority of people who have not heard the gospel live in this window. The Church of the Nazarene is working in 30 of the 65 countries in this area.

Here are some important facts to keep in mind in praying for people in the 10/40 Window:

- It contains two thirds of the world's population, 4 billion people, including 90% of the poorest in the world who live on \$250 dollars a year per family.
- Of the people living in this window, 95% have not been evangelized. It is estimated that 1.6 billion of them have not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ even once!
- The main non-Christian religions of the world (Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Animism, and Atheism) are based in this part of the world.
- Declaring yourself a Christian can result in being sentenced to death in most of these countries.
- Christians are persecuted in 43 of these countries.
- Illiteracy is widespread in these countries, which makes it difficult for people to read the Bible.
- Terrorist organizations prosper and are sheltered in many of these countries.
- Horrible abuses of women and children occur in these countries. Human trafficking of children and teens is also connected to the tourism and culture of many of these countries.

THE TEN COUNTRIES WHERE CHRISTIANS ARE MOST PERSECUTED



Praying for the JESUS Film

How do we pray for the JESUS Film?



NMI is a partner with the ministry of JESUS Film Harvest Partners in prayer and intercession. Millions of people are coming to the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ through this precious and useful tool for evangelism. Prayer is very important in this evangelistic ministry, which is why local churches should pray for global leaders, regional leaders, evangelistic teams, and especially for those who are accepting Christ as Lord and Savior.

It is important to pray for new evangelistic tools such as the EvangeBall, which is being used around the world. This ball offers a new, fun way of presenting Jesus by using five colors to describe the plan of salvation (similar to the Wordless Book). The teams take advantage of the time it takes to set up the JESUS Film, with volunteers and team members inviting children and teens to play soccer with them. Soon after, they invite them to the showing of the film.

Prayer is the central activity of the people of God, those who have been born again and filled with the Holy Spirit. As someone once said, “The church is stronger when it’s on its knees than on its feet.” It is only through prayer that the people of God will win hearts, heal the sick, restore lives, have great revivals, and experience victory in spiritual battles.

Concerts of Prayer

How do you combine prayer and worship?



A prayer concert is a summons to prayer and worship, and these are good occasions to involve teens. In these events, prayer is lifted for the following purposes:

- To thank God for being able to gather in prayer.
- To confess and repent from sins.
- To ask for a greater infilling of the Holy Spirit for leaders and congregations in the region.
- To intercede for the personal and family needs of Nazarene leaders and families around the world.
- To intercede for a united, alive, sanctified, and growing church in the region.
- To ask God’s guidance for those who are discipling and making Christ-like disciples in the region.
- To intercede for a mission-focused, holiness movement in the region and around the world.
- To ask for God’s blessing for the activities and events in the region.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

In praying for missions and Nazarenes around the world, we are united and work together for the same missional purpose. Prayer produces fruit for spiritual growth.

Activities

Time



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *In your own words, why is it important to pray for missions?*

2. *Write three reasons why believers do not pray more for missions.*

3. *Write three reasons why we should pray for missionary families.*

4. *Put yourself in the shoes of a Christian living in a country where he/she is persecuted. What prayer requests would you be sharing with Nazarenes in other countries?*

5. *Why is it important to pray for the JESUS Film ministry?*



LESSON 2

Children and Missions

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Objectives

- To understand that children can participate in missions.
- To learn how to involve children in missions.
- To get to know programs and projects that make up this ministry.

Main Ideas

- Pray, disciple, educate, and give are things we need to teach and communicate in order to involve children in missions.
- Children need to learn they are also called to be missionaries.
- We are responsible for involving children in the Great Commission.

Introduction

Children in our churches are often confused about the ministry of Nazarene Missions International, thinking it is only for the adults in the congregation. This confusion is not their fault, but the fault of local leaders (not only teachers) who are responsible for teaching them about the work of NMI and more importantly, involving them in it.

In this lesson we will study how we can include children in the ministry of NMI and instill in them the desire to be part of all its activities.

For children, it is important that learning be meaningful, which means that the information given should be age appropriate and applicable to their lives. So, in this lesson you will find ideas to involve little ones in such a way that they will be able to experience firsthand how NMI offerings are used to bless others and fulfill the Great Commission.

It is important for children to also recognize the work of missionaries around the world and the diverse ways they can sustain their ministry.

Involving Children in Missions

How can we help children to learn more about missions?



We must remember that as Jesus established His ministry He did not allow His disciples to keep children from coming to Him (Mt. 19:14). Children are not interested in boring people; they like people who are interesting and dynamic. This passage is important because in it Jesus shows His desire to interact with children, showing them the attention they deserve. We must do everything possible so children will draw near to Jesus, and a good way of doing this is through missions.

Before working with children one must consider the following:

1. The amount of time a child can concentrate and pay attention to a lesson varies according to their age. Respecting these limits will help children to understand the teaching we are giving:

In your opinion, why is it important to involve children in the ministry of NMI?

*“The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity, but its sending capacity”
(Mike Stachura).*

3 to 6 year olds: 10 minutes.

6 to 10 year olds: 30 minutes.

2. The classroom or location where the teaching takes place must be comfortable for children. This does not mean making a big investment in decorations. It does mean using bright colors, appropriate tables and chairs for little ones, and good ventilation and light. These factors will help children to have a good environment for learning.

3. It is very important for teachers to connect with the children. Having appropriate clothes, age-appropriate language, and a good attitude will help children identify with the teacher and pay more attention.

Children and the Great Commission

How do we get children involved in missions?



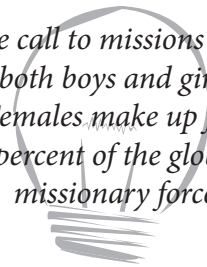
To accomplish the task of teaching children the Great Commission that Jesus gave us which states to “go and make disciples of all nations,” we can teach them the four objectives of NMI: Praying, Discipling, Educating, and Giving.

Everyone who has accepted the Lord Jesus as Savior must fulfill the Great Commission. Everyone must be making disciples for Christ, and age does not matter. Children must learn they are also called to be missionaries.

Involving children in missions means having them participate in the ministry. This can be accomplished by helping them discover how they can contribute to the work and ministry of NMI as members of the Church of the Nazarene. Because the ministries of NMI are so broad that one session would not be long enough, several meetings or classes need to be planned. The first four sessions can focus on teaching about each of NMI’s main objectives, and the fifth session can include a special project. One idea would be to work with a local NMI leader to have the children promote the next missionary offering.

In each session it will be important to use a poster or large sign with the name of the objective being studied so that by fourth session the children will have learned all four objectives.

The call to missions is for both boys and girls. Females make up fifty percent of the global missionary force.



Praying for Missions

How do we teach children to pray for missions?



It is important for children to learn the value of praying for missionaries and NMI leaders. How can we teach the little ones to pray for our missionary families? Here are three ideas of activities to use to accomplish this:

In order for children to be able to pray for missionary families, it is important for them to know how children and their families live in faraway places. What do they eat? What are their houses like, what games do they enjoy, what language do they speak, what clothing do they wear, and what schools do they attend? What animals do they have? What dangers do they face? What are their needs?

a. Get to know missionaries.

You can invite a missionary or missionary family to talk to the children about their experiences serving in another culture. It is important to prepare materials and decorate the classroom with pictures from the country where the missionary is serving so the children can have prior knowledge about the culture and customs.

Then, give the missionaries time to share their experiences about living in a foreign country. How have the church's prayers helped them in their ministry? What are some of their family's needs which the children could be praying for each week? Be sure to leave time so the children can ask questions about the topics they are interested in, but be prepared with some backup questions to encourage the children along.

b. Make prayer cards for missionary families.

Have enough cards ready for all of the children. On the front, write the name of a country, and on the back, write the name(s) of the missionary or missionaries who serve there, as well as the names of the family members. This information is available on the webpage of the Church of the Nazarene. On the tables, have materials the children can use to decorate the cards such as crayons, watercolor paints, stickers, glitter, markers, ribbon, glue, etc.

Each child will choose two cards to decorate as they please. While they work on the cards, the teacher can explain how missionaries have to leave their home countries to travel to another one, and if their language is not spoken in that country they have to learn a new language in order to share the gospel. When they are finished with the cards, they can take them home so they can pray for those missionaries with their families.

c. Share information.

Share prayer requests from NMI's Prayer Mobilization Line with the children.

Discipling Children About a Missionary Call

How do we prepare children for a missionary call?



Children are sensitive to God's voice and understand the concept of compassion. They can begin to learn about the heart of God for missions at a young age. Planting the seeds of interest for missions is fundamental if we expect to recruit missionaries and strong supporters of missions in the next generation.

Children can learn about the training that a person called to be a missionary has to complete. They can learn about the Cross-Cultural Orientations held in the region, and how through these events, some people come to feel the desire to go and fulfill the Great Commission.

"There is no greater calling or privilege known to humanity than being involved in fulfilling the Great Commission"
(Bill Bright).

Here are some ideas of activities to do with children to prepare them for possible missionary service:

- Teach them to have a daily devotional time (Bible reading and prayer).
- Teach them to value regular church attendance.
- Disciple them so they come to be members of the Church of the Nazarene.
- Involve them in the ministries of the local church, such as Bible quizzing, NMI's missionary programs for children, Sunday School, etc.
- Involve them in the ministries of the district, such as Bible quizzing, summer camps, missionary events (such as Maximum Mission).
- Teach them to give offerings and tithe.
- Encourage them to learn another language if they can.
- Encourage them to learn about other countries and cultures in books, movies, documentaries, and other experiences.
- Form a reading club focused on missionary books and have the children participate in the recommended activities in the books.
- Teach them how to witness to friends about their relationship with Jesus.
- Motivate them to attend missionary services and other events where missionaries are speaking.

Teaching Children About Missions

How do you develop a missions education plan for children?



One question NMI leaders often ask about ministry to children is, “Where do I begin?” New leaders often lack ideas, and older ones often run out of them. Here are some ideas for how to develop a missions education plan for children.

- Use the Mission Education for Children curriculum. Along with the twelve lesson in the curriculum, missionary books are published every year.
- Once in a while, have a separate activity for children with special missionary activities during regular worship services.
- Encourage children to read the Missionary Books. Ask them to present a summary of the books through puppet shows, dramatizations or videos about the reading.

- Involve children in the adult missionary events by providing activities that have been specially designed for them.
- Allow children to take part in the missionary offerings. Children tend to participate with enthusiasm. It is important to explain the purpose of the offerings and give examples of how they are used around the world. Children should not ask their parents for money, but instead find a way to earn it by their own efforts. Providing ideas of how to earn it will be important, as well as how to involve their parents and other church members.
- Help children to connect with missionaries, encouraging them to keep in touch with their LINKS missionaries. Children can give their offerings to LINKS, write letters, or provide gifts for the children of missionaries.
- Provide a section in the church bulletin for children. Include interesting information about missions through activities such as word search, connect the dots, puzzles, etc.
- A child's compassionate heart is awakened when he or she experiences missions first hand. This is why they must be included in the compassionate ministries of the local church in the local community.
- Encourage families with children to participate in Work and Witness projects.
- Organize summer missionary camps for children. It is important for NMI and SDMI to work together to put these events together.
- Have the NMI and SDMI leaders work together on a Vacation Bible School with an emphasis on missions.

Teaching Children To Give To Missions

How do we encourage generosity in children?



*“The Great Commission is fulfilled on the feet of those who go, the knees of those who pray, and the hands of those who give”
(Anonymous).*

It is important for children to know that offerings to support the ministries of NMI are received in every country that has a Church of the Nazarene. They must also learn how these resources are distributed. Nazarene Missions International receives two offerings each month: one is specific to that month and the other, called the Prayer and Fasting offering, is received every month.

A good way to teach children about the NMI offerings is to make a list on a poster which the children can decorate to be placed in the classroom.

MISSIONARY OFFERINGS	
January	Volunteer missionaries
February	Alabaster
March	Easter Offering
April	Missionary Education
May	Missionary Medical Insurance
June	World Mission Broadcast
July	International Ministries, Bible Institutes, Seminaries
August	LINKS
September	Alabaster
October	Priority One
November	Thanksgiving
December	Compassionate Ministries
Every month	Prayer and Fasting

You can also have the children make twelve posters, one for each monthly offering. Working alone or in groups, they could then explain the purpose for each offering. These posters could then be hung up in the classroom to help the children memorize what offerings are received and their purpose. Invite the local NMI President to the last session so they can show their work and explain what they have learned about the offerings. Another idea would be to invite the children to the next NMI council meeting.

Another option is to distribute an information page to the children with information about the offering for the month. They could then decorate the page with pictures which illustrate the purpose for the offering. Older children can write the name of the offering on top along with the month it is received. They can then work on a drawing to illustrate the offering and its purpose.

Final Project

Here is a practical project for children.



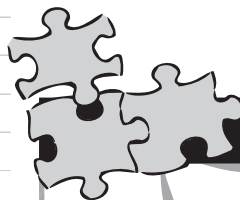
Once the four NMI objectives have been presented, it is important to challenge children to be involved in a final project where they can help people in their community, just like missionaries help people overseas. Some ideas for this project are these:

- Volunteer Work/Work and Witness: Children can perform some kind of service project in the community, such as sweeping, cleaning, painting, weeding a garden or mowing yards for the elderly.
- Compassionate Ministries: Distribute clothes, toys or food to low-income families. Prepare food (depending on the weather it can be a soup or sandwiches) to give to children and low-income individuals.

What compassionate ministry projects in your local community could the children in your church serve?

These activities should be supervised by responsible adults. Parents should provide their consent in writing for their children to participate. We recommend that a local NMI leader participate with the children so they can feel the support of the church.

Children should work to come up with the resources needed for this final project. Once the project has been completed, the children who participated can be given certificates or diplomas of participation. Those who did not participate should be encouraged to take part in the next project and to help by giving.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Children need to be equipped, motivated and included in missions. We should never leave them out because through early participation they will discover God's call and their ministry focus.

Activities

Time



20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. As a class, create a questionnaire/survey to use with children in a local church (5 to 12 years old) to evaluate how much they know about missions and what they think of NMI's ministry. You can come up with your own questions or use the following:

a. What is NMI?

b. What does a missionary do?

c. How can a person know if God is calling them to the mission field?

d. Where does the money come from for missionary families to eat, buy clothes, go to school, buy gasoline, etc.?

e. If the missionary is in a country where a language other than their own is spoken, what must they do to prepare to serve?

f. Why does the church need to pray for missionaries? What difficulties do they face?

g. How can a child of your age help missionaries in the work they are doing?

2. Compile the responses to all of the questions. After evaluating the results of the survey, make a list of recommendations to improve missionary education for children in that local church.



LESSON 3

Youth and Missions

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Objectives

- To recognize the potential of youth in missions.
- To learn how to involve youth in Maximum Mission.
- To gain appreciation for the ministry of Global Mission.

Main Ideas

- Youth discover their call when they become involved in missionary experiences, such as Maximum Mission projects, which are organized by their local church.
- The Church of the Nazarene relies on the ministry of Global Mission to follow up with those who have a call to cross-cultural ministry.

*“We are to be fishers of men, not keepers of the aquarium”
(Mike Francen).*

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 is a call to the entire church, which also includes its youngest disciples. This mission Jesus gave us is universal, calling us to make disciples in all cultures, regions and among all the peoples of the world.

Christian youth are called to serve God with commitment and responsibility. Teens need to learn to serve the church and their generation with the gifts the Holy Spirit has given them. When youth are able to develop their gifts and recognize their specific Christian calling and vocation, they are able to make a difference and contribute in making the world a better place.

This lesson will develop the topic of how to involve youth in missions through the ministries of the local church.

Introduction

Involving Youth in Missions

What can teens contribute to missions?



*“The first requirement to be a missionary is not loving souls, as it is usually said, but love of Christ”
(Vance Havner).*

Involving youth in missions? It is not only possible, but many of them are ready to become involved in missionary experiences which will allow them to make an impact. Teens need to have opportunities to participate in missionary work so they can discern through the Holy Spirit where they can serve using their gifts and abilities.

In 1 Samuel 16:7 God tells the prophet Samuel, *“Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”* As leaders in the church, we are called to give youth many opportunities to grow in important areas, such as missions. We should not wait for them to become adults before we give them opportunities to serve the Lord!

They might not understand the magnitude of the missionary strategy, or they might think that missions are similar to going on vacations or

adventures. But even if they only have a superficial interest, keeping them involved allows the Holy Spirit to awaken in them the call to ministry through experiences in missions that will transform their lives. It is the Spirit who raises new generations of missionaries!

The youth of our churches have great potential which must be harnessed and invested in the kingdom of God. They are able to do greater things than we can even imagine! God desires for young people to give their lives over to Him so He might use them to bless others. God has amazing plans for their lives.

Awakening the Missionary Call

What is the work of a missionary?



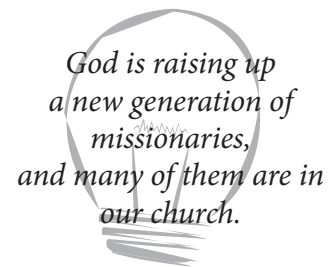
Before teens can respond to the missionary call, they must have a clear understanding of missions and missionary service. In the context of the Church of the Nazarene, these concepts can be defined in our clear mission statement: “To make Christlike disciples in the nations.”

To be in “missions” is to evangelize people, guiding them to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, teaching them to live in holiness, and training them to serve others according to their gifts and calling. The Church of the Nazarene has developed strategies and programs to be used in fulfilling this mission.

Missionaries are sent to different cultures to nurture new converts and develop leaders. Missionaries also support churches in establishing new congregations and missionary areas.

Many young people are receiving their call to missionary service in the local church. They are able to discover their call little by little when they have leaders who walk beside them in this process and help them to make decisions. Global Mission exists in the Church of the Nazarene to “Discover, Develop and Deploy” young people who have a calling to cross-cultural ministry.

However, the ministry of Global Mission depends on local churches getting involved. This is why they encourage local churches to involve adolescents and teens in missionary service experiences through the Maximum Mission (MM) program.



Maximum Mission

Maximum Mission

The idea for Maximum Mission was created in 2002 as a way of mobilizing youth in missions. The first trip was a group from Guatemala City who went to Cobán, Guatemala with sixty people. The following year there were many groups that went to San Pedro Sula from other regions and countries.

What is Maximum Mission?



Maximum Mission is a strategy that begins and is developed in the local church. The main objective is to initiate and involve youth in service opportunities which involve missions so they can then find their place of ministry in the church.

The program consists of mobilizing all people who want to develop their gifts and talents for ministry through short-term missionary trips. The program focuses on four basic areas: fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and service.



In order to carry out a successful event, attention must be paid to these four areas since they are equally important.

Maximum Mission is an excellent program to develop disciples in churches by exposing them to a variety of ministries. Leaders do not come out of nowhere. Jesus had a strategy for developing His disciples: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you” (John 15:16). Developing disciples should be a central part of a Maximum Mission project.

The objectives of Maximum Mission are the following:

1. Leading participants to discover their gifts and ministries

2. Teaching participants to develop a holistic ministry and compassionate lifestyle
3. Guiding participants to recognize God’s calling
4. Supporting local churches in discovering and developing new leaders
5. Helping communities through Christian service and witness

Maximum Mission emerged as a response to God’s command to the church in Matthew 28:20, to develop young disciples as they serve in short-term mission trips. Maximum Mission is a good strategy to encourage diversity in ministries and promote the development of leaders.

*“The person who can mobilize one hundred missionaries to the field is more valuable than one missionary on the field”
(Dr. Ralph Winter).*

Suggested Activities

How do you train volunteers?



Once they have discovered their gifts, young people need to be given opportunities to practice them through service both in the church and in the community. A good way to involve youth in different missions-related activities is to organize service projects for people in the community or in institutions such as schools, jails, hospitals, orphanages, and retirement homes, just to name a few.

These activities should be planned ahead of time in order to provide for the physical, material and spiritual needs of the people in a holistic way.

In addition to having good planning, volunteers must also be trained. Here are a few ideas for activities that can be used for this purpose:

1. Hold a training session or church service about answering the missionary call. The purpose of this is to touch the hearts of those who are just beginning to discover their call.
2. “Missionary for a Day” – In this activity, teens can play the roles of missionaries for one day by serving in the own community.
3. A short-term missionary trip to a nearby town or community (one or two days).
4. A class or workshop for children, youth or adults about the missionary call. This should be led by teens who are receiving training.
5. A weeklong missionary trip where teens and missionaries serve side-by-side. Youth should raise funds for the trip, involving their congregations in prayer and giving.

Let us pray that every youth leader would become involved in guiding his/her youth in missions!

All Christians are called to be urban missionaries (to work in a holistic way for the benefit of our communities and cities) and some have been called to be cross-cultural missionaries.

Global Mission
During the time that Louis Bustle led Global Mission, many regions began to send their own missionaries. MAC (Mexico and Central America) was the first region to assign personnel and a budget for such a purpose. Global Mission has always sought to accomplish three objectives: Discover, Develop, and Deploy missionaries from our region to the rest of the world. Since 2004, Scott Armstrong has served as Regional Coordinator for Global Mission in Mesoamerica.

6. An interview with a missionary via videoconference so teens can ask them about their calling to missionary service.
7. Arrange a face-to-face visit with a missionary on the field with the same purpose as the interview above. Or you can receive a missionary who might be on home assignment in your district.
8. Assign research projects to the youth about other countries and cultures or about other cultures within their own country.
9. Interview missionaries of other religions (Buddhists, Muslims, Animists, Mormons, etc.) and denominations. It is recommended they receive some orientation about the religion before they conduct the interview.
10. A group could adopt a missionary or missionary family. This could be done by the local NYI (depending on the size of your group). Teens can present a report each month of what they have done to support their adopted missionary. They are expected to communicate with them and provide photos and information to the congregation about them.
11. Compose or write a song with an invitation to missions. You can organize a competition at the field or district level.
12. Involve all the youth in a play which depicts the missionary call and ministry. You can depict stories of Bible characters or modern day missionaries, such as William Carey.

These can be done together with other ministries of the local church.

Doing Follow-up Work

How do we guide those who have received a call to missions?



All Christians are called to be involved in missions. Many people are called to make disciples in their own culture, but others are called to cross-cultural service. They are no more special than those who are called to serve within their own culture, but they need a little more preparation in order to fulfill the call.

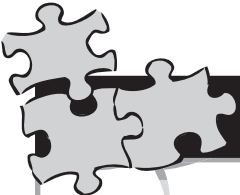
How do we guide youth who have a call to cross-cultural ministry? The first step was already mentioned: they should participate in Maximum Mission projects. Second, teens can also attend a Cross-Cultural Orientation, which is an event organized by the regional Global Mission office. This is a 3 to 4 day event for young people and adults which gives information about the process one goes through to become a cross-cultural missionary and how to support missions.

The purpose of these Cross-cultural Orientations is multiple:

- To prepare those who are interested in missions to cope with culture shock.
- To teach principles for ministering in a variety of contexts.
- To prepare them to collaborate with God in their own transformation even as they explore their call to ministry.
- To help them discover if they are being called to serve as a missionary or to support those who will go through the ministries of giving and prayer.
- To remind them they still have a mission to fulfill in their own communities.

It is important for local NYI leaders to intentionally plan activities to involve their youth in missions. It is their responsibility to keep themselves informed, to share this information and to guide teens in this process. Even when a teenager has participated in a CCO, the local leader will be the one who is directly ministering to that youth.

As of 2012, how many people had attended a Cross-Cultural Orientation? By the grace of God, 1,032 people.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Involving youth in missions requires that we guide them to develop their gifts, to recognize their call, and to train them to serve in a cross-cultural context. This is the responsibility of all local church leaders and Global Mission.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. How is the missionary call awakened in a teen?

2. What must the local church do to create the proper environment for youth to discover their missionary vocation?

3. In your own words, explain the purposes/objectives of Maximum Mission.

4. In your words, explain the purpose of a CCO (Cross-Cultural Orientation).

5. The whole class will work together in a brainstorming activity. Divide a chalkboard into the following three columns and have students give ideas for Maximum Mission projects.

Maximum Missions Projects		
Local Community or Organizations Close to the Church	1 to 2 Day Trip to Another Area or Culture	3 to 7 Day Trip to Another Country or Another Culture Within Your Own Country or City



LESSON 4

Cultivating the Missionary Call

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Objectives

- To recognize the need for a strategy when cultivating the missionary call.
- To identify ways of caring for those who are called.
- To understand the role of the local church in cultivating the call.

Main Ideas

- Caring for the missionary call of children and youth is similar to growing a tree.
- The church and the district are responsible for caring for missionaries from the time they leave for the missionary field and for continually supporting them so they produce good fruit.

Introduction

Our world is rapidly changing. Every day our youth and children are bombarded by ideas that make them doubt their value as people. Many of our youth, receiving these messages from friends and the media, are influenced to think their value lies in things like these: 1) dressing/looking like certain popular artists; 2) acting, dressing or talking in certain ways; 3) choosing a certain group of friends.

As a church we are responsible for teaching our children and youth that their value lies in being created and loved by their Creator. They need to understand they do not need other external things to feel good or be loved. Teens urgently need to know the truth revealed in Scripture about God's plan for their lives.

God is calling children, youth and young adults to be witnesses wherever they go, but if this call is not realized by the time they graduate into adulthood, many will leave this missionary call by the wayside.

For this reason, we as a church must lead these new generations while they are still growing so they will become adults committed to the Great Commission. We do this by helping them develop their spiritual life and preparing them from a young age to be involved in ministry according to their call.

"If every person in the world had adequate food, housing and income; If all men were equal; If every possible social evil and injustice were done away with, people would still need one thing... Christ!"
(J.W. Hyde).

Developing the Missionaries of Tomorrow

How do we nourish or stimulate the missionary call?



In order to understand the delicate process of nourishing the missionary call of children and youth in our churches, we will be comparing this task with cultivating a tree, a tree called the "missionary tree." For a tree to grow and give fruit, someone must care for it. This is the same thing that must happen with the missionary call of those who are preparing to be sent to

the missionary field. This delicate task requires a well-developed plan and strategy.

In the next sections we will study the steps in this process and learn how to implement it in the local church.

Cultivating the Soil

How do we create a good environment for missions?



The first thing to do in order to have a healthy, fruit-producing tree is to “cultivate” the soil. The dictionary defines this as:

- To prepare and use (land) for crops or gardening
- To try to acquire or develop (a quality or skill)
- To try to win the friendship or favor of (someone)



In relation to missions, cultivating means creating an environment that is conducive to missions. Nazarene Missions International and Global Mission provide excellent opportunities to involve youth and children in missions. Mission Call Coordinators at the local and district level must be informed about these opportunities and inform those who are interested so their call can be cultivated and sustained.

Mission services that involve children and youth should be offered at least once a month to keep continuity of themes and provide regular opportunities for people to participate. Here are some suggestions:

- Have mission services for children once a month. These can be held at different times, for example during similar events for youth or adults, during Children’s church or during Sunday School.

Calling:
A personal call from the Holy Spirit to a person. God calls all people to salvation, sanctification and participation in ministry.

Depending on the species, a seed from a tree will take between seven and 120 days to germinate, with some taking one whole year.

- Plan meetings and activities where children can develop their abilities and talents.
- Youth can set aside one of their NYI meetings, a Sunday School class, or a monthly service to become involved with Global Mission.
- Take advantage of all ministry opportunities of the church, or find and establish new opportunities in different contexts so those who are called are able to live out serving in missions in the local church.

Planting the Seed

How do we awaken the missionary call?

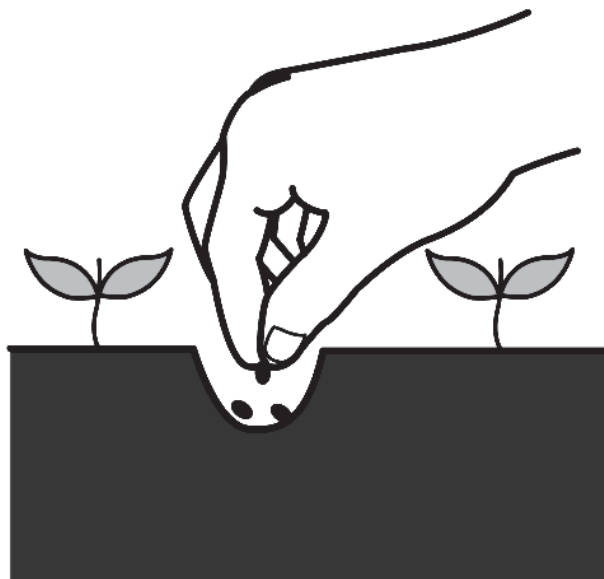


To grow a tree, it is necessary to begin with a seed. Planting means sowing and spreading the seeds on soil which has been prepared for this purpose.

As mentioned before, NMI and Global Mission provide opportunities for youth to discover and receive their missionary call. Some of these opportunities include these:

- Maximum Mission: projects organized by local churches, districts or even fields.
- Project Abraham: an opportunity for cross-cultural service and ministry.
- Work and Witness: service opportunities which can be organized by local churches, districts, etc.
- Other volunteer ministries.

*“The spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary we become”
(Henry Martyn).*



Watering and Fertilizing

How do we nourish the missionary call?



In order for the tree to grow well it must be watered and fertilized. Watering involves spreading water over the soil so roots can absorb it. Fertilizing is adding nutrients to the soil which increases its growth.



For missions, watering and fertilizing means guiding those who are called to take the next steps in the ministry. NMI's four objectives (praying, discipling, giving, and educating) provide an excellent guide for how to involve those who are called.

The first objective of **praying** involves: "*Interceding for leaders and churches and for the Holy Spirit to draw all people to Christ.*" How do we involve children and youth in the prayer ministries? Here are a few ideas:

- Connect with missionaries. This could include missionaries from the local church or nearby churches, missionaries in the news, people or families who are waiting to be assigned, etc. Having a personal relationship will motivate and improve prayer.
- Help children and youth to identify needs in the different world areas by using news sources and through other forms of communication.
- Share prayer requests from NMI's Prayer Mobilization Line, JESUS Film Harvest Partners newsletters, and other missionary news sources.
- Involve children and youth in all prayer emphases of the church.

The objective of **educating** involves: "*Informing people of the world's needs and what the church is doing to meet those needs.*"

Learning about missions can be done in many different ways, such as listening to and reading missionary stories, watching videos or movies, or getting to know missionaries personally. Learning about missions will create a greater awareness of missions.

Children and youth called to missions should go through a process of discipleship so they can be “Christlike disciples in the nations.” Jesus’ mission for His followers was to “go and make disciples,” and He is sending today’s missionaries on that same mission. Jesus sent His friends who embraced this mission of drawing all people to Him.

The Great Commission can only be fulfilled when believers cultivate deep friendships and help each other to grow in Christ. In the spiritual discipline of discipleship, believers walk side by side on the road of faith as they grow to know God and practice loving one another more and more.

When a believer disciples another believer, God’s presence is multiplied exponentially. Discipleship produces a chain reaction of learning, growing, and serving in love which can transform our world.

Some discipleship opportunities for children and youth include these:

- Cross-Cultural Orientation
- Field and regional missionary conferences
- Youth conferences
- Training workshops
- Teaching about missions

Topics for teaching about missions can include these ideas:

- A greater understanding of cross-cultural missionary work around the world.
- Using videos to get to know the missionary work done by the Church of the Nazarene around the world.
- Reading missionary books.
- Using the mission education packets for adults, youth and children.

The objective of **giving** has as its goal: “*To dedicate ourselves and our resources for extending the kingdom of Jesus Christ around the world.*” NMI offers many opportunities to contribute to missionary work and to meet people’s needs around the world.

People of modest means around the world give of their resources. For example, a woman from Zimbabwe brings a chicken to place on the altar as her family’s missionary offering; a youth from the United States will give his lunch money in the offering; a Brazilian student will donate his new speakers to the church; a Korean business person donates from his earnings

The germination of a seed depends on different factors. Some are internal, such as its stage of maturation. Some are external, such as humidity, temperature and climate.

for the World Evangelism Fund; a group of 8-year-old children from Jamaica put coins they collected from friends and neighbors in the offering plate for missions.

We are responsible for teaching future generations to be generous in giving to missionary offerings. World Evangelism Fund offerings, which support the missionary work of the Church of the Nazarene, provide different opportunities to give toward missions. This fund is made up of the offerings from churches around the world which go toward the Easter Offering, Thanksgiving Offering, Prayer and Fasting Offerings, and Faith Promise events.

Other approved Mission Specials offerings which go toward specific goals include the Alabaster offering, the World Mission Broadcast offering, the Compassion offering, and the Missionary Care offering.

Protecting the Call

How do we protect the missionary call?



To protect means to guard, to look out for, to defend; to shelter a person from damage or danger, to surround, etc. Trees are protected from erosion and drying by growing moss over the soil around the tree.

This also applies to missionary calls. We must encourage, care for, and protect the missionary call. In Acts 13:2-3 we read, “*While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.*” Prayer and fasting are foundational in caring for those who have a call.

The local and/or district Mission Call Coordinator and NMI President are responsible for promoting prayer and fasting among members of the churches to encourage those who have felt a call to missions. The purpose of prayer is to guard them from the snares of the enemy, who will be trying to discourage them.

When the time required between the call and being sent to serve as missionaries is long, discouragement can set in, but “*the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective*” (James 5:16). The prayers of God’s people will keep the call alive and protected.

The world’s biggest trees are the Sequoia trees in the United States, a type of conifer tree. They can reach up to 100 meters in height and twelve meters in diameter.

Harvesting

How do we celebrate the fruit of the call?



Now that you have taken care of the tree, or the missionary call, it is time to harvest, or time to send the missionary out. It is time to celebrate the call!

To harvest means to gather the fruit; in missions this means sending out those for whom you have so earnestly cared. This requires the collaboration between congregation and district.

*“The whole gospel will not be taken to the whole world if the whole church does not do it using all of its institutions and all of its resources”
(Lausanne II, Manila).*



Sending out means assuming the responsibility for supporting the one being sent, both through prayer and offerings. The local church and/or district are primarily responsible for establishing a strategy and committing to providing support through prayer, financial resources and constant communication with the missionary.

Constant Care

How do we support those who have been sent?



For a tree to keep producing fruit, it requires pruning and care. Pruning involves cutting off or removing branches that are useless, dry or sick so that the plant can produce more fruit. Keeping a tree healthy requires constant care.

Missionaries also require constant care and support as they are ministering. The church and/or district are responsible for caring for them from the time they leave for the field, and this support must continue so they may always produce good fruit. This means being aware of their physical and emotional health, counseling them and encouraging them.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Research together, either through videos, lectures, or books, the process of desertification (the process which turns productive land into non-productive desert) to understand how fertile soil can become an arid wasteland. Afterwards, discuss and respond to the following questions as a class.

a) What kinds of things can destroy the fertility of the soil?

b) In our churches, what things destroy the fertile soil of our children and youth and hinder them from developing their missionary call?

c) How can we exchange those things which lead to insufficient growth for those which encourage growth for the missionary call?

2. Now research together about the process of sowing, fertilizing and caring for a plant. Afterwards, discuss and respond to the following questions as a class.

a) What is the secret to growing a healthy tree or plant?

b) What similarities exist between caring for a tree and caring for the missionary call of children and youth?

c) In addition to the ideas in the lesson, what are other activities that could be used to care for the missionary call of children and youth?



LESSON 5

The Mission Call Coordinator

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Objectives

- To describe the position and qualifications of the Mission Call Coordinator.
- To understand the role of this leader in the local church and district.

Main Ideas

- The Mission Call Coordinator (MCC) is a leader who plays the role of facilitator and mentor for those who have a call to missions.
- The MCC identifies, develops, and encourages children and youth who feel God's call to missions.

Who Is the Mission Call Coordinator?

*“And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others”
(2 Timothy 2:2).*

A newly created role.

The role of the Mission Call Coordinator (MCC) is one of the functions of NMI. This important role was recently created in order to develop Nazarene missions around the world. Nazarene Missions International is encouraging districts and local churches to appoint a leader to serve as the MCC who will be responsible for guiding children and youth in their missionary calls.

The MCC of a local church works with the children and youth ministry leaders to identify those who have a call to missions. The MCC also needs to involve and prepare other people to serve in this ministry. This one person (the MCC) will not be able to do everything it takes to guide people in their missionary call. They must ensure all mentoring is done by people who have passion and the resources needed for this task (NMI Handbook & Constitution 2009-2013).

NMI recommends that the MCC be a member of the NMI Council, the Children's ministry council, and the NYI council.

Profile of the Mission Call Coordinator

Profile:

the collection of unique characteristics a particular ministry area requires of a person regarding spiritual maturity, education, experience and intellectual/physical gifts and talents.

Who can serve as the MCC?

The MCC must be selected according to the NMI Constitution (Article V, Section 1.C.2). This leader must possess the gifts, abilities and knowledge necessary to efficiently serve in this ministry. Here are some of the necessary qualities:

- A love for children and youth (Luke 18:16). It is important for the MCC to get along well with children and youth, and to enjoy interacting with them. It is important that they enjoy each other's company.

- A passion for missions. Many believe they like missions because they find it interesting. However, having a passion is more than just having an interest in it. Having a passion means living, feeling and loving missions.
- Up-to-date knowledge. This person must have a knowledge about and understand things such as NMI, Global Mission, the structure of the denomination, region, field, district, and local church, and the current realities of the world.
- Communication skills. The MCC must be skilled in this area, especially in communicating with the people to whom they will be ministering: children and youth. They must also communicate with adults, such as parents, pastors, district leaders, etc.
- Organizational skills: managing, evaluating, planning, implementing, and following up.
- Basic computer knowledge to communicate with youth and children, as well as for reporting to other leaders.
- If possible, volunteer missionary experience.

The Ministry of the MCC

What is the Biblical basis for this ministry?



The MCC is a leader who fulfills the function of facilitator and mentor for those who have a missions call.

Before appointing someone as MCC, they must be confirmed as having the qualities outlined for this role. The person must have a clear call from the Holy Spirit to fulfill these responsibilities.

The mission facilitators act as mentors. We can see a model for mentoring in the Apostle Paul, who was a teacher and a prolific mentor. He worked with persistence to improve and develop those around him. Paul identified potential leaders and then kept them close and taught them. His letters to Timothy are clearly the letters of a mentor to his pupil.

Paul understood he would not be around forever, so wherever he went he taught, encouraged, and guided his disciples until he had enough confidence in them to leave the work in the hands of these new leaders. This allowed him to move on to the next place where there were other leaders to develop. Even from far away, he followed up with and counseled them with his letters. Thanks to Paul being an excellent mentor, today we have access to many of his writings.

But Paul is not the only example in the Bible of a mentor: Moses mentored Joshua and prepared him to lead Israel; Elijah mentored Elisha

Mentor:
a person who has a degree of spiritual maturity, experience and knowledge who can help someone who has less maturity, experience and knowledge.

A facilitator works as a counselor or instructor. In some countries this term is synonymous to professor or teacher. The facilitator is responsible for directing a group of people toward achieving their objectives.

and prepared him to be God’s prophet; Naomi mentored Ruth; Mordecai was Queen Esther’s mentor; Deborah mentored Barack; and the list goes on and on. The Bible is full of stories of people who achieved great things thanks to their faithfulness to God and their willingness to grow under the guidance of a spiritual mentor.

Scripture teaches us that true spiritual maturity is acquired by having a desire to know Christ and by having fellowship with the people of God. MCCs have a great privilege in serving God by investing themselves in preparing others to serve in missions.

Jesus Christ is the greatest example of a mentor. When he chose His disciples, Jesus had in mind all the families of the earth and future generations of disciples. His first disciples understood that the good news of the gospel was for all nations, and Jesus sent them to the ends of the earth so they would multiply themselves. While Jesus is not physically present today, He continues to send mentors through the Holy Spirit.

The Role of the District MCC

What does the district MCC do?



The responsibilities of the district MCC include the following:

1. Promoting the missionary call by providing opportunities for children and youth to respond to God’s call.
2. Facilitating communication between MCCs in the local churches and the MCC in the Global Mission department.
3. Provide training opportunities for local MCCs.

Global Mission serves in 31 countries and 72 districts in the Mesoamerica region.

The Role of the Local MCC

What is expected from a local MCC?



The ministry objectives for a local MCC include the following:

1. Identifying, encouraging, and developing children and youth who have answered God’s missionary call.
2. Connecting children and youth with mentors.
3. Coordinating follow-ups, communicating information, and providing prayer and encouragement for those who are called.
4. Maintaining constant communication with the district and regional MCCs.

The Mission Call Coordinator makes sure that the Manual and the Constitution of NMI are available to every district NMI president, NMI field coordinator, and/or NMI regional coordinator.

5. Collaborating with the district NMI and NYI presidents as well as the district superintendent.

The responsibilities of the MCC toward children and youth are these:

1. BE AWARE of those who are being drawn to missions.
2. AWAKEN THEIR INTEREST by involving them in missionary projects.
3. HAVE THEM PARTICIPATE in local missionary activities, such as missionary workshops and Maximum Mission projects, and have them be a part of the local NMI council.
4. CARE FOR THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT of those who are called to missions by encouraging them so they won't lose their calling before they are sent out.
5. If someone is being drawn to missions, SUPPORT THEM BY RAISING FUNDS so they can participate in Cross-Cultural Orientations, the Abraham Project, the Genesis Project, Volunteer Missionary opportunities, Youth in Mission, etc.
6. INSTRUCT them in all things missions. In other words, DISCIPLE THEM so they will become Christlike disciples in the nations.

Developing Tomorrow's Missionaries

How do we involve the new generation?



NMI is committed to discipling future generations by especially focusing on children and youth so they might be on the frontlines of the mission. Through discipleship, both children and youth are challenged to invest their lives in transforming this world.

This discipleship will happen by providing one-on-one mentoring, leadership opportunities, and by inviting these up and coming leaders to participate in the mission here and now, no matter their age. The purpose of NMI is to involve all people in the global mission by having them personally participate in it.

Statistics indicate that 50% of the global population is less than 24 years of age and 30% is less than 15 years of age. NMI wants to develop a passion for mission in this generation to fulfill the Great Commission that Christ gave us.

This generation – those who are 24 years old and under – have a unique quality: *passion*. In spite of the problems that youth of today are facing in their diverse contexts, they tend to commit fully to whatever they do. The question the church needs to ask is not, “How can we get youth to be



passionate about something?” but, “How can we disciple these youth into Christlikeness so they will invest their passion into the task of extending God’s kingdom?”

Here are some keys to ignite a passion for missions in youth:

- Provide mentors. “Being present” is an essential part of building relationships with children and youth. They need people they can count on: leaders who will truly care for them and show interest in them.
- Have a sincere passion. Today’s youth are asking for authenticity. They want leaders who will have a true passion for missions.
- Share friendship and community. Youth are very socially minded; they like to belong to a cause greater than themselves. Being with other Christians will create a feeling of belonging.

Most of today’s missionaries testify that the first time they felt a call to missionary service was during their childhood and youth. As such, it is important for the church to support every child and teen that God is calling. They need to be encouraged, counseled, and guided in this call.

Global Mission and NMI have created an initiative to help churches and districts to develop new missionaries. The plan includes five main areas to help in developing the missionary call:

1. Cultivate their relationship with God through personal Bible study times, discipleship, prayer, and worship.
2. Involve them in Christian service by allowing them to participate in the ministries of the local church and district. Train them to work in teams with current leaders and to learn about what these leaders do in the church.
3. Share knowledge with them about the rest of the world so their vision and knowledge of global issues expands.
4. Train them, providing an understanding of cross-cultural missions and the spread of Christian missions around the world.
5. Develop them, giving them opportunities to work and use all the gifts they have received from the Holy Spirit.

Integrating these called youth in the local and district NMI work teams is very important. Many of the young adults with a call to missions who were trained in Cross-Cultural Orientations are the ones doing the work of MCC in their churches and districts.

Children and youth must be included as members of NMI in the local church and their names should be included in the database for the ministry. This includes those called to be missionaries or those called to be part of the

In 2010, Mesoamerica’s Global Mission leaders gathered and set a goal of sending 1000 missionaries in the next decade. By 2012 they had already recruited over 200 missionaries. They can serve as short term or paid volunteers.

Activities

Time



20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *In your own words, explain the role of a mentor.*

2. *In your opinion, why is the role of the MCC so important in the local church?*

3. *Divide the class in groups of three or four. Each group will discuss and answer the questions below. Afterwards, the groups will share and compare their answers.*

a. *Thanks to the ministry of the local and district level MCC, what advantages will future Nazarene missionaries have in comparison with current missionaries?*

b. *Why is it vital for the MCC to have a sincere passion for missions?*

c. *Why is it so important to involve children and youth with a missionary call in the ministries of the local church and the district?*

d. *What dangers are we exposing our youth to when we do not teach them to invest their passion in extending the Kingdom of God?*



LESSON 6

Volunteer Missionaries

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Objectives

- To learn about the objectives of Global Mission on the Mesoamerica Region.
- To appreciate the ministry of volunteer missionaries.
- To support the sending of volunteer missionaries.

Main Ideas

- Mesoamerica Region Global Mission is in charge of discovering, developing and deploying missionaries from the Mesoamerica Region.
- Nazarene volunteer missionaries serve according to their gifts, experience and education in different ministries in order to develop the church in other cultures.

Objectives of Mesoamerica Region Global Mission

Project Genesis has set a goal of sending 112 missionaries from the Mesoamerica region by 2020 to 28 strategic points in the region.

Why was Global Mission created?

One of the main objectives of the Church of the Nazarene for this new generation is to use its various agencies to open up doors so that all members of the church, including youth, can actively participate in the different local church ministries, including missions. This is why the Mesoamerica Global Mission office was created. The office also works with NMI leaders to provide information about missions. From the beginning, the objectives of Global Mission have been to Discover, Develop, and Deploy.

GLOBAL MISSION OBJECTIVES



Global Mission achieves its objectives by inspiring and challenging the people of God, including the youth of the church, to become involved in missions. How does this happen? Through Cross-Cultural Orientations and by working with district NMI leaders and local churches.

There are a variety of ministries where youth can participate as volunteer missionaries. In doing so, they help to meet the great need for human resources, and they invest their lives in developing leaders in other cultures. This is possible because of the training and opportunities they have been offered in their local church and district.

Today's Nazarene youth need to be challenged to take on great things for God. They desire to participate and give themselves to great causes which have global and eternal significance. One such great cause is the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is the only one capable of transforming lives, families, institutions, societies, and the whole world!

Volunteer Missionaries in the Bible

Volunteer missionaries and God's mission.



There is a strong Biblical basis for the development of a volunteer missionary ministry, and here you can see some of the most relevant passages.

First, we find the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20 which carries a command for all of Jesus' followers. These words are for all Christians; we have all been sent to be volunteer missionaries who make disciples in our contexts and in other nations. But we cannot do this if we do not go out! Obviously, as we do this work to spread God's kingdom locally and in other cultures, we will experience strong resistance by the enemy. We have available to us the power of the resurrected Christ, who is "the same yesterday and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

It is important to capture the nature of this divine command, which is a call to make Christlike disciples in the nations. In the book of Acts, we find the example of the church in Antioch, a church which embraced this mission. Its leaders agreed to fast and pray to find God's will and direction. Their desire was to be obedient to this mission of making disciples in the nations, but they wanted to send out the right people. The Holy Spirit guided them in this task of calling and choosing Paul and Barnabas, their first volunteer missionaries.

The ministry of volunteer missionaries requires commitment, responsibility, self-denial and sacrifice because in many cases the missionary will need to leave their countries and families to obey God's call.

God's redeeming love and offer of salvation is for all human beings, for all cultures, languages, and nations. This is the essence of the mission God gave us: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The Great Commission is a call to go and make intentional disciples of all nations. God promised to be present through the Holy Spirit with those making disciples (Matthew 28:18-20).

Profile of a Volunteer Missionary

What characteristics should a volunteer missionary possess?



The minimum requirements for volunteer missionary candidates in the Church of the Nazarene are these:

- Be called by God and have a profound desire to obey this missionary call.
- Be recognized and called by their local church.
- Be born again and have a love and passion to reach people in other cultures for Christ, in their own or in another country.

"The Great Commission is intensely personal. Jesus did not say: pastors, go and do it; missionaries, go and do it. He commissioned all of his followers to make disciples"
(Dr. Woodie J. Stevens).

- Be a member of a local church and be actively involved in its ministry.
- Come to an agreement with their local church about how long and where they will serve.
- Possess the gifts, ministry experience, and professional formation required to serve on the missionary field (Romans 12:3-8).
- It is recommended they have the economic resources to support themselves.

There is a great need to take the gospel to places which have yet to be reached. For that reason, the church seeks to make room for everyone, including Nazarene youth, to be involved in missions at the local level as well as in other cities, languages, and nations. Volunteer missionaries can serve especially well in places where the Church of the Nazarene is opening new mission fields. Why send them? Because if they have a missionary call, are committed, have the necessary funds, and have done all the paperwork necessary with local and regional church authorities, they can be assigned and sent to the field much faster.

How old do I need to be to become a missionary? If someone is 16 years of age and has a call to missions, the first thing they must do is tell their pastor and local church leaders about their call (those younger than sixteen should also do this!). This will allow the church to observe and evaluate their testimony, their attitude, the fruits of the Spirit present in their lives, and their commitment to ministry in order to support their missionary calling.

Profile of a Sending Church

A church committed to making disciples.



God needs the youth of our churches to accept His missionary call so they will become volunteer partners with God in taking His salvation to their own communities and to other cultures, languages and nations.

It is a blessing to know that a missionary culture already exists within the Church of the Nazarene, especially in the USA from which so many have been sent to spread the seed of the gospel in Latin America and the Caribbean. Those who were sent and those who supported them responded to the Lord's call in obedience, which is why many of us are Christians today.

It is also a blessing to know this missionary culture has begun to produce fruit in the churches of our region, which have shown their obedience by sending and sustaining several volunteer missionaries. They were sent and are being funded by our region to make disciples in Spain, the Middle East, and Portugal.

Jesus' desire for His Church was for all believers to become disciples committed to making more disciples. Oh, the revival our congregations could experience if we were all discipling others in our churches! However, church members resist becoming disciples who make other disciples, which is why many churches experience almost no growth.

Being a disciple is different from just being a believer. Our churches would be more blessed, prosperous, and healthy if every believer sought to live as a true disciple of Christ involved in making more disciples. Why? Simply put, because Christianity cannot exist apart from discipleship. What happens when a church is full of disciples? It grows in every dimension, makes an impact in its community, and sends disciple-makers to other nations.

Requirements For a Volunteer Missionary

What does someone need to do before becoming a volunteer missionary?



Those who desire to become volunteer missionaries should be praying, giving, educating, and discipling in their local church. They should also be participating as much as possible in their district's mission projects, such as volunteer services and work and witness projects.

Why do I need to give my offering? When we give, we are consecrating our goods and resources to be used to win the world for Christ. Giving of our material goods prepares us to give all of our lives in missionary service (John 15:12).

One must prepare by putting God's love for the lost into action. Love is more than a feeling; it implies recognizing how important God is in my life and how important the lost are to me. People are so valuable to God that He was willing to give His only Son to save them. This means that before going to the mission field, we must be clear about our priorities. It is through prayer and the study of Scripture that we align our priorities to God's missionary heart.

In the Church of the Nazarene and the Mesoamerica Region, there are several essential requirements for those who want to be volunteer missionaries:

1. Be an independent adult.
2. Be an active member of a local Church of the Nazarene in the Mesoamerica region.
3. Contact and receive an invitation from the Mesoamerica Region Global Mission office.
4. Receive letters of recommendation your pastor, District Superintendent and Field Strategy Coordinator before receiving final approval from the Regional Director.
5. Be debt free.
6. Fill out an application.
7. Commit to serving under the normal conditions the church presents, not requiring special conditions for your work (unless the church or the field is willing to make provision for such changes).

In 2007, the Mesoamerica Region sent the following volunteer missionaries as part of the Isaiah and Caleb projects: Enrique Rasgado Raymundo, Maria Eugenia Rodriguez, Jorge David Daniel del Angel, Irene Quiñones Soto, Jorge Benjamin Cruz, David Campos Martinez and Vanessa Cruz Blandino.

*“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ”
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer).*

8. Be able to count on the support of one's local church, which means they will be interceding for the volunteer missionary's spiritual, emotional and social health.
9. Be in good health.
10. Have a valid passport and a visa for the country where you will serve.
11. Attend a Cross-Cultural Orientation (CCO).
12. Have health insurance in the country where you will be serving.

All volunteer missionaries must have the approval of their local church, their District Superintendent, their Field Strategy Coordinator, the Mesoamerica Regional Global Mission Coordinator, and finally the Regional Director, who will approve the service assignment as a volunteer missionary.

How Can Funds Be Raised To Send Missionaries?

Some strategies for raising financial resources.



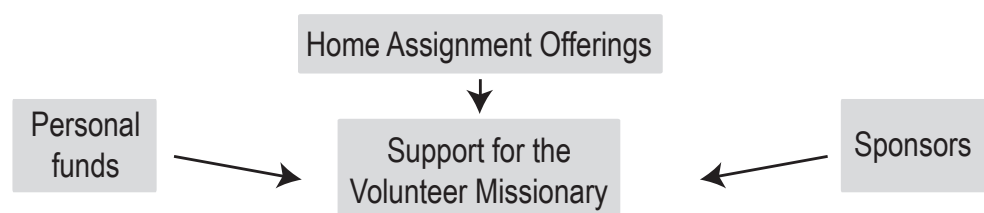
The following are some strategies that can be implemented to raise funds in the local sending church or in the churches of the sending district:

1. Personal funds: In many cases the candidate will have personal funds to cover some costs, such as for applying for visas, travel costs, taxes, room and board, and health insurance while they are serving as missionaries.

2. Home Assignment: After receiving approval by the District Superintendent, the candidate can schedule services in the churches of that district to raise funds so they can support themselves during their time as missionaries. They will need the help and support of the District NMI President. The pastors and local NMI presidents of the churches should be well informed about the purpose of the visit so they can encourage their congregations to give generous offerings. In the home assignment service, time must be given for the candidate to share their missionary call, the missionary assignment location, the length of time, and specific task of the missionary service.

3. Sponsors: There are people in the churches who have the financial resources to sponsor a candidate who asks for their support. The candidate must set apart some time to talk to them about the missionary project, their call, the needs of the place they will be serving, and their own specific needs during their stay there. God, in His grace, can touch hearts so people with the means to do so will support the missionary's needs.

For those who feel a call to missions, a good piece of advice is to open a savings account and get an early start in saving for future missionary expenses.



Training the Volunteer Missionary

How do we train the called?



Training is essential for a volunteer missionary. This training should include Biblical knowledge, theology, anthropology, culture, language and religion. In preparation for the mission field, a volunteer missionary should be trained in the following areas:

Forming a servant's heart: All volunteer missionaries need to ask the Lord to pour into them a passion for service through the Holy Spirit. This will allow them to have a heart that is willing to meet the holistic needs of the people on the mission field. How do we define service? Service is meeting a person's needs with excellence and integrity by following the model Christ described in Mark 10:42-45.

Recognizing limitations and depending on the Lord: Missionaries face many difficulties on the field and need to prepare by recognizing their limitations and depending on the Lord for every need.

Ministry experience: All volunteer missionary candidates must participate in prayer services and be involved in a ministry within their local church, especially in the area of discipleship. Every ministry experience will become a valuable tool for the work on the mission field.

Identify ministry gifts and abilities: Volunteer missionaries need to know where their passion lies and in which ministries they have the potential to produce the most fruit. When missionaries have formal education along with theological and Biblical preparation, especially in cross-cultural missions, their opportunities for service expand and the fruits of their service will be even greater (1 Peter 4:10).

Cross-Cultural Orientation: A young adult with a call to missions should attend this event where he or she will learn about the missionary life, culture shock, missionary service and its implications.

*"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
1 Peter 4:10:*



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

NMI leaders in the local church and the Mesoamerica Global Mission office are responsible for making sure all candidates meet the profile requirements and have the training needed to serve as a volunteer missionary. They must also verify that the candidate has the resources to cover their financial needs before they are sent.

Activities

Time

20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *According to what you studied in this lesson, who can be a volunteer missionary?*

2. *Explain the difference between a believer and a disciple?*

3. *Why is it important for those who are called to missions to have experience in the discipleship ministries of their local churches?*

4. *Why is it important for the volunteer missionary candidates to attend prayer services or be a part of a prayer group?*

5. *Is it necessary for a volunteer missionary to have a servant spirit? Why?*

6. *How do volunteer missionaries support themselves financially?*



LESSON 7

Caring
for the
Volunteer
Missionary

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Objectives

- To become involved in praying for volunteer missionaries.
- To learn ways of sending them financial support.
- To commit to forming relationships with them.

Main Ideas

- The local church is blessed when it promotes and participates in the ministries of volunteer missionaries.
- The ministries of volunteer missionaries are sustained by the prayers, offerings, and demonstrations of love of the local church.

Introduction

A volunteer missionary is someone who goes, in response to God's call, where the church needs them while covering their own expenses. This could be for a few weeks, months, or even years. Some are teens or young adults willing to serve during their vacation time, making their knowledge and experience available to the church in places where they are needed.

On occasion, people in the working professions or who work in construction or others similar jobs will offer themselves to be volunteer missionaries. There are also people who decide to help in missions by volunteering after their retirements. There are many who have been volunteer missionaries for years in obedience to God's call.

Participating in a ministry as a volunteer is foundational for those who have a call to the mission field. There are many programs where one can volunteer, for example Work and Witness, Youth in Mission, Project Paul, Projects Isaiah and Caleb and other local and district initiatives and projects.

Even when serving as volunteers, people must maintain a close relationship with the local church to which they belong. This lesson will focus on how local churches can be blessed in supporting volunteer missionaries through prayer, giving and loving.

The volunteer ministries of the Church of the Nazarene give people the opportunity to have a missionary experience. Those who have participated in these ministries see them as a good opportunity to respond to the Great Commission and to reach souls for Christ.

Prayer Support

How do we pray for volunteer missionaries?



The apostle Paul wrote these instructions to the church in Ephesus regarding how to pray for other Christians and for his ministry as a missionary (Ephesians 6:18-20):

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.”

What are some prayer requests for volunteer missionaries?

Prayer is the motor which sustains the ministry of the Church. Prayer also sustains the ministries of volunteer missionaries. Constant prayers must be lifted when a person's call is being confirmed, when they are preparing to go out, and for financial support as they serve in their ministries and need to cover specific needs.

Praying for confirmation of the call.

Accepting the call to missions is a difficult step for many. Some struggle for a long time before they are able to obey the call of God in their lives. There are many who struggle in silence because they lack the courage to tell others of their call.

Because of this, the church must be in constant prayer for those with a call to missions. Of course, the potential missionary must also pray for confirmation that God is the one doing the calling. When praying for the church, we must also pray that it will have a vision for missions so that children, youth and adults with a call to missions might be discovered. Churches must become the seedbeds for missionaries.

Praying for financial support in the ministry.

Generally a volunteer missionary will pay for their own expenses as well as the expenses of the service they will be giving. These expenses include: transportation, processing of immigration papers, food, housing, and health insurance.

However, there are times when volunteer missionaries are not able to cover everything they need, so they trust God to supply the rest. The church must be praying for God to soften the hearts of people who will be moved to give financial help to volunteer missionaries.

Praying for specific needs.

A missionary's biggest need is to have the opportunity to present the gospel. This should be our primary prayer request. Still, because life presents us with different basic needs, we should also ask the Father to provide our missionaries with things like: good health, equipment or tools for the ministry, food, clothes, etc. We trust God to supply all needs when we faithfully pray for our missionaries.

IDEAS FOR HOW TO PRAY	
Organize prayer groups	To intercede for a missionary or missionary family for a specific need.
Distribute prayer calendars	To remember important dates in the lives of missionaries, such as birthdays, anniversaries, etc.
Hang up a map with prayer requests	To pray for the specific needs of the country where the missionary is serving.
Distribute bookmarks	To pray for the specific projects and needs of the missionaries.

How can we give to support volunteer missionaries?



In his letter to the Philippians, Paul thanked them for the help he had received from them. He taught them that in giving they would also receive God's blessings (Philippians 4:10-20). Paul thanks them for participating in the ministry through their love offerings. Volunteer missionaries do not have salaries or fixed pay of any kind; they are responsible for their own financial support. This is why every offering, no matter how small, is of so much help to them.

*“Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need”
(Philippians 4:15-16).*

Ideas for how to provide financial support for volunteer missionaries.

- a) Write down a list of people who are willing to help with a set amount of money for a set period of time. For example: the Perez family will give \$20 every month for one year; the Jimenez family will give \$50 a month for 6 months.
- b) Help with transportation costs. The church could set a goal of raising an offering to cover travel costs. This could be the cost of moving from their hometown to the place where they will serve, or the cost of trips they will take while serving as volunteers.
- c) Raise money for a set period of time by placing a collection box in the church and distributing envelopes, boxes, or small bags that include a written description of the offering. Once the collection box is full, open it up in front of the whole congregation and send the money to the missionary.
- d) Encourage the entire church to participate in raising an offering for the missionary. Invite all age groups: children, teens, adults and seniors.
- e) Set a day to collect a special offering for the missionary.
- f) Encourage people to give the equivalent of one day's wages toward the missionary using creative promotional strategies.
- g) Hold a special event to raise money. This could be a food sale, a garage sale, or an auction of items donated by the church. Another creative idea is to have an auction of new and used items that have been giftwrapped so the buyers cannot see what is inside. The auctioneer can give clues about the contents, like what it is used for, but the buyer is the only one that can unwrap and open the item. At the end of the auction, the buyers can trade what they bought or return them so they can be used in future auctions.
- h) Through NMI, offerings are received each year in January for this ministry.

Supporting Through Communication

How do we show our love to our volunteer missionaries?



Missionaries need people that will provide support, especially when they find themselves alone in a new culture or country with different customs. The local church has an important role to play in this area. In 2 Timothy 4:13, Paul writes about the support he received from different people and churches. *“When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.”* Paul could count on Timothy to bring him the things he needed.

Paul writes about his thankfulness towards the members of the church in Philippi for sending him things he needed. *“Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need”* (Philippians 4:15-16).

When a missionary receives some of the things they are missing from their home country, he or she feels a special kind of support and appreciation. This is a small thing that is not very costly to do but allows them to feel connected to home.

Some ideas for strengthening relationships

1. Send them traditional items from their country. For example, canned products, candy, condiments, or other things the missionary enjoys.
2. Maintain constant communication through letters, cards, e-mails, etc. Missionaries appreciate it very much when people they know, people from their country, or simply brothers and sisters in Christ write them expressing an interest in the work they are doing.
3. Connect with them via telephone or videoconference programs such as Skype. It is a great blessing to hear someone encourage you in your language, using the same sayings and expressions you are accustomed to hearing.
4. Send gifts, no matter the size, which will be useful as a show of love. These demonstrate to the missionary that someone took some extra time to think about them.
5. Visit the missionary. If you coordinate with the missionaries and the field leaders, it is possible to schedule short visits to the field for the purpose of encouraging and providing support.

What are the ways we can keep in touch with volunteer missionaries?

Promoting Long-Term Support

How do we include volunteer missionaries in the long-term plans of the church?



The local church is blessed when it supports and participates in the ministry of volunteer missionaries, as well as when it receives volunteers that come to the church or district for construction projects, evangelism, office work and other tasks.

Just as we would not abandon our family, we should not abandon those who serve as missionaries. They could be our own children, brothers or sisters, or even our own parents. As a church we have the privilege of blessing and being a family to volunteer missionaries. One way of doing this is to get in touch with them through the District NMI President or the person in charge of communicating with them, in addition to supporting them with our offerings and prayers.

Local NMI leaders should tell their church congregations about the opportunities that exist to serve as volunteers and at the same time encourage and motivate children, youth and adults to care for their missionaries.

Local NMI presidents have the responsibility to do everything in their power to promote, help and support volunteer missionaries. Below is a list of these responsibilities.

Promoting prayer: Encourage the church to pray for volunteer missionaries. Make a list of names and prayer requests for each missionary. Teach the congregation to pray for them as if they are part of their own family since they are part of our family in Christ. Include in the list the following prayer topics:

- God's provision for everything they need, both personally (emotional and spiritual health) and for the work they are doing.
- Pray for the family members they are leaving at home. Bless them with all your heart.
- Pray for strength. Ask God that they would feel the support and backing of all the people praying for them. Ask God to confirm His call in their lives to continue serving in missions.
- Pray for the continued support of the local church to meet all their needs.
- Pray for others who are being called in your church to be added to the ranks of volunteer missionaries.

Promoting giving: Include in your budget a special offering for the missionaries. Do not wait until the "volunteer missionary" month comes around. Remember that God is pleased by offerings which are given with effort and sacrifice, not just those given out of our surplus.

For special dates, such as an anniversary or birthday, send a special gift, card, or offering to show them the church is supporting them in the work

Activities

Time



20'

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *In your own words, give reasons why a local church is responsible for taking care of volunteer missionaries.*

2. *Using a card, write down what you would like to hear if you were far away from your family, friends, church, and country on your birthday.*

3. *If you were a missionary, what would you miss most about your home country? Make a list of some things you would like people to send you.*

4. *Divide the class into three groups. Each group will suggest two creative ideas, not mentioned in the lesson, for supporting volunteer missionaries.*

Group 1: PRAYING

Group 2: GIVING

Group 3: SHOWING OUR LOVE



LESSON 8

Home Assignment

The Local Church: Seedbed for Global Missionaries

Objectives

- To learn about the purpose of home assignment.
- To discover how to invite missionaries who are on home assignment.
- To know how to follow-up after a missionary visits the church.

Main Ideas

- During home assignment, missionaries visit churches and districts to tell others about the ministry on the mission field.
- These services provide an excellent opportunity to show appreciation and support to missionaries.

“Mission” includes all the saving work of the Trinity and the Church done for the purpose of extending the kingdom of God on the earth (Beacon Theological Dictionary, pp 437-438).

Missionaries on the field need equipment to accomplish their ministry work, such as a car, a video projector and a computer. At some point, all of these will need to be fixed or replaced due to wear and tear.

Introduction

Home assignment (also known as deputation) is a somewhat new concept and one that is not well known by some churches. However, it is needed to give churches opportunities to participate in supporting missionaries who are serving in different world areas.

This lesson will provide direction for how churches can participate in home assignment.

Biblical Basis for Home Assignment

What is the Biblical basis for home assignment?



Home assignment is part of the mission strategy of the Church of the Nazarene around the world. All missionaries participate in these tours as a part of their regular missionary service.

The purpose of home assignment is for the missionary or missionary couple to have an opportunity to return to the churches in the home country to share about the ministry they are doing on the mission field.

Sharing the accomplishments and successes of God through the work of missionaries is something the early church also did (Acts 14:26-28). After preaching the word of God and performing many miracles, Paul and Barnabas returned to the church in Antioch, which was their sending church. They gathered to hear a report of their work and the stories of lives transformed by God’s power through the lives of Paul and Barnabas.

The Bible teaches that mission was born in the heart of our merciful God. Christ inaugurated this work as He commissioned His disciples and the church to continue in the work He had started. Today, God continues to look for workers for the mission who will partner with Him to reach the whole world. This missional work is described in the gospels in John 3:16, Luke 19:10, and Mark 10:45.

In Genesis 12:3 we find the commissioning and calling of Abraham. He received a promise from God that has missional implications since it

declares that all nations would be blessed through him. This lets us know that the mission is first of all God's and then the Church's since it is the Creator's desire for all people to be saved.

All Christians have been commissioned by our Lord – all of us are sent. In the same way that God sent the Son, the Son is sending His disciples to the world, and the Father and Son sent the Holy Spirit to empower the Church in the mission to make disciples in all the nations. So, when the Church sends out workers, the Holy Spirit is sending them out also.

Missiology
is the discipline which studies and describes the whole field of missions from the biblical, theological and historical perspectives as well as using relevant information from the field of social sciences.

The Purpose of Home Assignment

The goals of the home assignment tour.

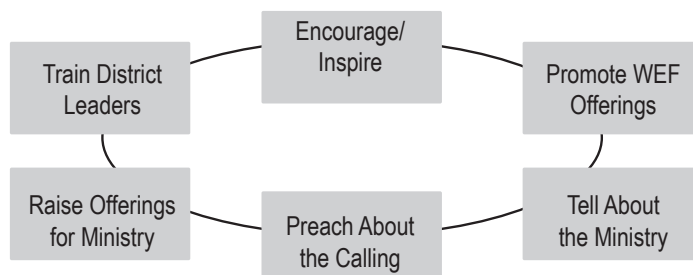


A home assignment tour has the following objectives:

1. For missionaries to visit as many churches as they can in their district or country (including mission churches) in order to encourage, motivate and inspire them to continue extending God's kingdom and giving toward world evangelism.
2. For missionaries to go back to the home countries to tell about the work they are doing on the mission field. This provides a type of accountability for the sending church and district.
3. To spread news about the church's progress in missions and evangelism around the world.
4. To preach sermons focused on the calling of pastors and missionaries.
5. To raise offerings in the churches, mission councils, and the districts they visit. These offering needs to be reported to the treasurer of the field, region, or of Global Mission. With the approval of one's superior, it will later be available for the purchase of equipment, vehicles, furniture, etc.
6. To hold trainings for pastors, district leaders, and councils, especially the NMI council, through workshops focused on missions and the importance of giving to the World Evangelism Fund (WEF).
7. Missionaries can schedule services in non-Nazarene churches that invite them. The church provides housing, food, and transportation. These offerings can be used for the missionary's personal or ministry needs.

Why is it important for missionaries to return and visit the churches in their sending districts?

PURPOSE OF HOME ASSIGNMENT



Educating the Local Church

As far as it is possible, churches should receive home assignment offerings in anticipation of a missionary's visit so these are ready for them when they come.

Local church members need to learn about home assignment and its purpose.



As we have already mentioned, deputation is something new for many of the churches in the region as more and more missionaries are coming out of our countries in the last few years. Now our churches are receiving missionaries on home assignment who are serving with different types of assignments.

TYPES OF MISSIONARY ASSIGNMENTS IN THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE	
Volunteer Missionary	This missionary covers all their own expenses while they serve on the field (usually with the help of their local church, district, and family).
Special Assignment Missionary	This missionary is assigned to a special and specific job for a set period of time. He or she receives financial support from the World Evangelism Fund.
Missionary Intern	This missionary is on their first contract and assignment with Global Mission, usually for three years. During this time the missionary focuses on adjusting to the culture and learning the language. He or she receives financial support from the World Evangelism Fund.
Regional Missionary	This missionary serves within the context of their own region. They are trained, approved and deployed by the Regional Office. He or she receives financial support from the World Evangelism Fund.
Global Missionary	This missionary serves in a region other than their own. They are trained, approved and interviewed by the General Board and General Superintendents of the Church of the Nazarene. If approved, they are sent by the Global Mission Office and receive financial support from the World Evangelism Fund.

Before Home Assignment

How do we prepare the church for a home assignment service?



Before a missionary arrives for the home assignment service, the church must be prepared to receive them. There are several ways a church can prepare:

- Hang posters and photographs of the missionary or missionary family.

How should a church prepare to receive missionaries on deputation?

- Put up a banner announcing their visit at least two weeks prior to the event.
- Receive a generous offering weeks in advance which can be given to the missionary in the missions service so they can use it in their ministry and for personal expenses during their home assignment tour.
- The local church can begin to collect the offering little by little or unite with two or more churches to join efforts and have one combined missionary service.

Pastors and teachers should also remind local churches that the Bible teaches us to give financial support to the ministries of missionaries. This is a fundamental step for preparing the hearts of the people before the home assignment service. Sunday school classes and sermons can be developed around the following themes:

- Calling the church to a commitment to God to support missions.
- Setting apart, consecrating, and sending missionaries.
- Teaching the church to be unified and sensitive to the needs of the missionaries whom they have sent.
- Hosting and providing for missionaries in homes when the missionaries are on their deputation tours.

Church leaders are responsible for doing everything possible to allow the Holy Spirit to soften the hearts of His people towards missionary work. Also, the missionary should send the schedule of their home assignment tour at least three months in advance to the District Superintendent, letting leaders know ahead of time in accordance to the latest policies.

The chairperson of the District NMI Council is responsible for promoting and coordinating the tour so that all churches can be prepared and ready.

During Home Assignment

How do we receive the missionary?



The local church must be prepared to give the missionary a warm welcome and the opportunity to preach or give their testimony. It is very important to provide an appropriate place for them to stay, either in a hotel or the home of a welcoming church member who has the space to do so.

What else can the church do? The church can do many creative things to encourage the missionaries:

How often do missionaries travel for home assignment? Home assignment is a part of missionary service, and it is normally required for three months for every two years of consecutive service.

Home Assignment offers an excellent opportunity to better know the missionaries and have a closer relationship with them while they are serving.

1. Prepare gifts for the family, such as clothes, shoes, food, souvenirs, etc.
2. Give direct financial help to the missionary to help pay for travel costs. Because this is considered a personal gift it does not have to be reported to Global Mission.
3. If possible, set aside some time with the missionary to go sightseeing so they can have some time to relax.

After Home Assignment

How can we encourage missionaries as they return to the mission field?



Once home assignment is over the missionaries go back to the countries where they are serving. It is encouraged that the final service be planned either in their local church, their sending church, or as a special service with all of the district's churches.

This service can focus on giving thanks to God for the fruits of the missionaries' ministry and provide a special time for the blessing and sending of the missionaries. In doing this, the church is committing to supporting and encouraging those who are sent. It also implies a commitment to show them love, as Gaius did in 3 John towards those who were serving the Lord. The church should support them financially with love offerings to help them meet their needs.

After sending them back to the mission field, the church must continue to support them through prayer, offerings and continual communication.



WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Through home assignment, the church can participate with missionaries around the world, giving spiritual, emotional and financial help.

Activities

Time



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Has your church had the opportunity to host a missionary or missionary family? If so, describe that experience.

2. In your own words, what is the difference between a regional and a global missionary?

3. What is the purpose of home assignment?

4. Divide the class in two or more groups. Each will make a list of everything they would do to prepare a church to receive a missionary or missionary family. In order to include all necessary details, put yourself in the missionaries' shoes and think how they would want to be received. Then, both groups share their ideas with the other groups.

Final evaluation

Time



COURSE: THE LOCAL CHURCH: SEEDBED FOR GLOBAL MISSIONARIES

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

1. What are three ways in which the local church is key for the call on children and youth to serve as global missionaries?

2. What role does the local church play in the care of volunteer missionaries?

3. What is the purpose of home assignment (deputation services)?

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: Cultivating the Call to Global Missions, teaches the importance of transmitting the missionary vision to new generations. The local church should be involved in supporting those called before they go out on the mission field even as the missionary call is cultivated, and preparations are made to be sent out. It also explores the responsibility of the local congregation caring for the missionary while serving on the mission field as well as when they return "home" for missionary home assignments.



The editor

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