

## WHY N.M.I. – A QUICK LOOK

Nazarene Missions International functions as a support system of the world evangelism enterprise of the Church of the Nazarene. As members, we are committed to being informed of global mission activity, praying, encouraging children and youth to be available to God's call on their lives as well as encouraging involvement of all age groups, and to raising funds for extending the kingdom of Jesus Christ around the world.

In carrying out these responsibilities, we promote these emphases:

**Volunteer Ministries** – Work & Witness and other short-term service opportunities are available for becoming personally involved in some arena of world missions. Teens and college students should be encouraged to participate. Professionals are desperately needed for short-term service (doctors, nurses, teachers, para-professionals). Persons with specialized skills (plumbers, electricians, welders, computer programmers, videographers, etc.) are needed. Manual laborers, seamstresses, evangelists, secretaries – everyone can serve through Work & Witness. Those who cannot physically go may participate through prayer and sponsorships.

**Alabaster** – Twice a year (February and September) an offering is received for the purpose of purchasing property and building supplies for global mission areas and ethnic/cross-cultural churches in the USA and Canada. No administrative costs are taken from these offerings. (These costs are covered through the World Evangelism Fund.) Every penny of Alabaster funds is directed solely for providing buildings – 80% to world mission areas and 20% to North American locations. Participation is the goal. It is a special way of saying “I love you, Lord,” tangibly.

**World Evangelism Fund/Easter & Thanksgiving Offerings/Faith Promise** – Although it is not exclusively a “missions budget,” NMI promotes the World Evangelism Fund. (Easter & Thanksgiving Offerings, and the designated portion of Faith Promise giving are directed toward the World Evangelism Fund.) Of the total raised each year, approximately 75% is directed into world evangelization, and the remaining 25% funds supportive ministries and services. The global funding system is based on 5.5% of all current income from every Church of the Nazarene world-wide to the World Evangelism Fund. In addition, every church is asked to receive Thanksgiving and Easter offerings to increase the total giving for world evangelism. Many churches use Faith Promise, a systematic plan for mission support (it is not required). No Church of the Nazarene should ever neglect to promote Easter and Thanksgiving offerings, even if the church uses Faith Promise as a consistent basis for supporting the World Evangelism Fund. Some individuals do not participate in Faith Promise and others will want to give in addition to their Faith Promise commitment.

**Mission Education** – It has been said, “Praying for what you don't know is like coming back from where you've never been.” The purpose of mission education is to raise our global awareness level. We must be adequately informed to respond effectively. Informed people can and will pray more effectively and give more sacrificially. It is the responsibility of every pastor, as well as every local church leader, and every church member to be informed about missions – mission areas, mission opportunities, mission strategies, mission stewardship, and those who are serving as missionaries. This can best be accomplished by being an active learner through personal involvement (such as Work & Witness), personal encounters with missionaries (deputation services), regular mission studies, reading missionary books or listening to audio files, watching online stories, reading *Holiness Today*, subscribing to e-mail blogs or newsletters from missionaries or World Mission regions. Resources are available; being informed is a choice!

**Missionary Care** – This “umbrella” includes health care for active and retired missionaries, LINKS and Christmas Fund. A portion of health care costs are funded through Memorial Rolls (in honor of deceased persons), Distinguished Service Awards (presented to a recipient in recognition of outstanding service), Gifts from the Heart (donations made in memory of a deceased person or in honor of someone or for a special occasion), and freewill offerings. Because the cost is greater than the income from this source, the balance must be taken from the World Evangelism Fund. Hence, greater participation in “Missionary

Health Care” extends the impact of the World Evangelism Fund dollar! The designee of a Memorial Roll need not be a member of the local church or even a member of the Church of the Nazarene. Any person or group may purchase a Memorial Roll certificate. Recipients of DSAs are honored by the church or an entity of the church (NMI, NYI, Sunday School class, Prime Timers, etc.), and the certificate is purchased by the same, not by an individual or family. Gifts from the Heart are donations that may be given at any time and in any amount. “In Memory” and “In Honor” cards are provided by the local church and are available at no cost to the donor.

LINKS connects every church with designated missionaries for three-year cycles. It is a program that provides personal involvement by churches and individuals with selected missionaries. It is the privilege and responsibility of each district through its churches to provide remembrances on special occasions and other times throughout the year. Only one district is assigned to each LINKS missionary; therefore, it is important not to neglect LINKS care. (Think of LINKS as family members!)

The Missionary Christmas Fund provides a love gift at Christmas to every Nazarene missionary. The total received from all churches is distributed equitably among all missionaries.

*[Note: All churches on the Indianapolis district are also asked to contribute to a “District Missionary Christmas Fund” which is disbursed among those members of the district who are serving as missionaries with the Church of the Nazarene or other mission agencies.]*

**World Mission Broadcast** – Communications is an area of missions that has literally exploded with possibilities. Communication centers are located globally. They serve not only as broadcasting centers, but also as learning labs where pastors are trained to effectively record and produce radio broadcasts in their locality. Radio reaches the unreachable! With the advent and capabilities of new technology, this ministry has expanded beyond radio to include television and Internet broadcasts. Currently there are several countries in which Nazarene broadcasts are aired, but we have no established Nazarene churches. These include countries within the 10/40 Window and beyond. World Mission Broadcast is funded solely by WMB offerings. Every church is asked to participate.

**International Ministries, Bible Schools & Seminaries** – Often overlooked, this emphasis is a “must” as we recognize the value of training pastors and workers in ministry. Decentralization of learning centers provides more accessibility to theological education. In many world areas, most pastors are bi-vocational, and they need the courses required for ordination. Bible colleges and seminaries are essential in providing classroom education as well as practical experience. Nazarene educational institutions around the world are training men and women for ministry, as well as teachers, nurses, vocational and lay leaders. Christian education has always been an imperative in the Church of the Nazarene.

**Membership** – Membership in NMI is open to anyone, regardless of church membership or age. Members who are also members of the Church of the Nazarene are “active members” and those who are not church members are “associate members.” Therefore, it is not only possible, it is advisable that every church have more total NMI members than church members. Excellent resources are available for mission education for children and teens as well as for adults. Every church should encourage participation by children and teens, regardless of the number or whether separate meetings are held. Missions involvement is for all ages!

**Missions Priority One** – Certain criteria have been established which qualify local churches to be honored with this recognition. Missions Priority One churches have achieved the basic requirements of prayer, missions education, investing resources cross-culturally, involvement of children and youth, and supporting the World Evangelism Fund, Alabaster and LINKS.. Achievement of Missions Priority One status reflects the values of the local church in making missions a priority. *On the Indianapolis District, we also have Missions Priority One Plus recognition for achieving all designated goals.*

**World Evangelism Church of Excellence** – Any church that gives at least 5.7 percent, or \$1,500 above 5.5%, whichever is less, to WEF will be recognized as a “*World Evangelism Church of Excellence.*”

**Nazarene Compassionate Ministries** – While many so-called “ministries” are soliciting support for feeding the hungry and helping the needy, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries has the integrity of the denomination and the mission of making a difference in our world through meeting physical, emotional, relational, intellectual and spiritual needs. NCM is recognized internationally as a “world class” organization. NCM has many faces, many hands. Whether the need is in response to sudden disaster such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, or an ever-present scene of famine, disease and nakedness, NCM is there because Nazarenes are involved personally and financially. NCM fights perils of poverty by teaching hygiene, nutrition, and job skills. NCM opens doors to ministry of the Word by touching “the least of these.” Child sponsorship and offerings are just two of many ways churches and individuals may be involved. Child Development Centers and Compassionate Ministry Centers, such as Shepherd Community, are another avenue of NCM ministry.

**Prayer & Fasting** – One of the core objectives of NMI is to enlist members in prayer. Missionaries depend on the prayer support of the church “at home.” One missionary said, “The greatest fear I have is that the church will forget to pray for me.” We must not only be pray-ers ourselves, we must teach others to pray. We must also not neglect to add fasting to prayer. Fasting breaks down barriers and strongholds that have thwarted the growth of the Kingdom. We can effect change in our world through prevailing prayer and fasting. It is a continuing emphasis of NMI. Nazarene World Week of Prayer intersects with World Day of Prayer. There are other designated days of prayer with a specific focus. The District NMI Council has designated the first Thursday of each month as a day of fasting and prayer and encourages every Indianapolis Nazarene to observe this discipline monthly. Additionally, we join with Christians globally to pray “through the Window” – the 10/40 Window (an area of the world between 10 and 40 degrees latitude north of the equator which includes many gospel-resistant countries). The second Sunday of November is designated as International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church and again we join the global community of Christians in praying for our brothers and sisters who are persecuted and may be imprisoned because of their confessed faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We also join the global Christian community in the Global Day of Prayer, each year on Pentecost Sunday.

**Nazarene Missions International** is a vital ministry in the church. It should never be considered optional or unnecessary. Instead, NMI should be embraced and put to work, assisting us in responding to the Great Commission. An increasing amount of information is available online. This provides great opportunity for dissemination of the latest information and updates. Missions is exciting! NMI provides personal connection.

Martha Bean  
District NMI President