

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

The NMI Mandate

It was in response to Christ's post-resurrection mandate to go and make disciples of all nations that missionary organizations were established by various groups and denominations. The present Nazarene Missions International (NMI) traces its origin primarily to the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America (APCA). In April 1899, while the annual meeting of the churches was in session, "a few sisters met and organized a society to be known as the Woman's Missionary Society (sic) with eight charter members. The first year there were two auxiliaries organized and \$6.05 raised. By 1907, 18 auxiliaries had been organized with a membership of about 400."

It was not until 1915 at the fourth General Assembly, held in Kansas City from September 30 to October 11, that the WMS was officially recognized on the general level as an auxiliary organization of the Church of the Nazarene. The General Assembly Committee on Foreign Missions recommended that there be an organization in each local church to be auxiliary to the Church of the Nazarene to increase knowledge and interest in missions by prayer, by obtaining special speakers, and by keeping in touch with the missionaries; and to cooperate with the (local) Church Board in raising their apportionments (for missions).

In this recommendation, the activities and program of the WMS were clearly established as a supporting and helping organization of the church.

The Board of Foreign Missions appointed a committee of three women to prepare a constitution and bylaws for the local, district, and general organizations. The three women appointed, representing the three major geographical sections of the church, were:

- Rev. Mrs. Susan N. Fitkin (from New York) – East
- Mrs. Paul F. (Ada) Bresee (from Los Angeles) – West
- Mrs. J. T. Benson (from Nashville) – South

The committee work of these three representatives pleased the General Board of Foreign Missions, who appointed 14 members of the Woman's General Missionary Committee (now the General NMI Council). These 14 represented 7 areas in the United States and Canada and 1 from the British Isles. At their first meeting October 7, 1919, the Committee elected four officers:

- Rev. Mrs. Susan N. Fitkin, General President
- Mrs. Paul F. (Ada) Bresee, Vice President
- Mrs. J. T. Benson, Treasurer
- Dr. Julia Gibson, Secretary

This Executive Committee was to meet annually and the full committee once in four years.

In 1923, the Woman's General Missionary Committee was elected by the General Assembly, the name changed to Woman's General Missionary Council, and an annual meeting of the full Council authorized. At this same General Assembly (1923), the first constitution was officially adopted and placed in the *Manual*.

The first General WMS Convention was held in Columbus, Ohio, in June 1928. At that Convention, the General Council members were elected by the Convention rather than by the General Assembly. The new organization was off the ground and on its way to greater accomplishments, and the main lines of the organization established.

It was also in 1928 that the name was changed from Woman's Missionary Society to the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS). Other name changes were implemented in 1952 (Nazarene Foreign Missionary Society) to reflect the introduction of men, youth, and children into the organization; and in 1964 (Nazarene World Missionary Society) and 1980 (Nazarene World Mission Society) to reflect the international aspect of the organization. In 2001, the name changed to Nazarene Missions International (NMI).

Purpose of NMI

NMI Purpose

**To mobilize the church in mission
through praying, discipling, giving, and educating.**

Why was such an organization necessary? The answer to this question is really quite simple. Other departments of the general church had organizations on the district and local levels to carry out the ideas and programs suggested by the general church departments. For example, Sunday School and NYI ministries have a direct line to the district and local church through specific organizations. NMI is that direct line for missions in the local church.

The General NMI Council filters ideas, challenges, and projects to the district and local NMI. In every sense of the word, the NMI is the denomination's organizational representative, dedicated to the cause of world evangelization. This does not mean that other departments do not support missions. They do. But it is the distinctive task of NMI to bring each mission area into the local church in such a vital way that every Nazarene will be glad to be a part of global outreach, spreading the good news of full salvation (holiness) to the ends of the earth. The NMI provides the infrastructure, the spiritual dynamic vehicle, whereby the local church is mobilized in mission.

Though worded differently, the objectives given in the 2009-2013 *NMI Handbook and Constitution* are fundamentally the same as those expressed in **1916** (when the first constitution was drafted):

1. Praying – Interceding for leaders and churches and for the Holy Spirit to draw all people to Christ.
2. Discipling – Involving and mentoring future missions leaders, especially youth and children, to make Christlike disciples for God's mission in the nations.
3. Giving – Devoting ourselves and our resources, especially the world Evangelism Fund, to extend Christ's kingdom.
4. Educating – Informing people of the world's needs and enabling our church to meet those needs in Christ.

Throughout its history, how has NMI sought to carry out the four major objectives of **Prayer, Mission Education, Challenge to Children and Youth, and Raising Funds?**

I. PRAYER

The first objective is prayer. The world mission movement was born in prayer and will only survive by prayer. An underlying challenge is to enlist members and friends in praying for all the Nazarene mission fields. In fact, one of the requirements for a Standard Society (now the Mission Priority One program) was “definite prayer for all fields.” (At that time, there were fewer than 20 world areas.)

A. Missionary Profiles Online

In October 1920, the first WFMS page in *The Other Sheep* (what is now the online *Engage* magazine) encouraged all to pray for missions. In 1921, a missionary picture set (10 cents) was published to help people pray specifically for the missionaries. As missionaries were added, the picture set was printed in book form, then in cards and contained in a box. These were the forerunners of the current Missionary Profiles Online (<http://app.nazarene.org/MissionaryProfiles/>).

B. Prayer and Fasting

The Prayer and Fasting League was introduced in an article by a New York pastor in *The Other Sheep*, April 1924. In 1925, the Board of General Superintendents requested the WFMS promote the Prayer and Fasting League specifically for missions. The challenge was twofold:

- To fast one meal a week and pray for missions during the time it would take to eat the meal.
- To give at least 25 cents (in 1924) a week for the support of the missionary work of the church (World Evangelism Fund).

The financial crisis facing our missionary program from 1925 to 1932 was met largely through the Prayer and Fasting League. Giving through WFMS in the period from 1923–28 was \$237,896. At the height of the Great Depression, WFMS giving increased to \$466,245, and much of this was raised through Prayer and Fasting. Who can measure the results of the prayers that ascended to God in burdened, powerful intercession for the salvation of souls around the world? Prayer with fasting is still effective today.

C. Prayer Chart

To encourage prayer for specific needs, the Prayer Chart was introduced in 1953. Prayer requests were given in *The Other Sheep*. The local church selected some of these requests to put on the prayer chart and were urged to pray until the answer came. When the answer was reported in *The Other Sheep*, the church put a star before the request, indicating that God had answered. While the Prayer Chart is no longer printed, those churches wishing to continue this format are encouraged to do so.

D. SKYWATCH

In 1958, the church's 50th anniversary year, the NMI introduced the Saturday night SKYWATCH. Members were encouraged to pray one hour on Saturday night—30 minutes for the work on the mission fields and 30 minutes for an unsaved loved one.

E. World Day of Prayer

The NMI has always urged each church to participate in the World Day of Prayer, observed throughout Christendom and the origins of which date back to the 19th century.

Some churches have used prayer chains effectively; others have joined with other Nazarene churches in a day of united prayer. Others have cooperated with other denominations in the vicinity in observing the day.

F. Prayer Mobilization Line

In 1981, the NMI Prayer Mobilization Line (PML) was introduced. A special telephone line at the General NMI Office served as a link between the missionaries on the field and local church constituents. By calling 816-444-PRAY, people used the Prayer Mobilization Line as a vital intercessory tool. The PML has since expanded to include a page on the NMI website, as well as a weekly newsletter that arrives via e-mail and for which intercessors may subscribe at the PML page on the NMI site. PML was translated into Spanish beginning in 2012, and it will be translated into Portuguese beginning later in 2015.

G. Million Hours of Prayer

Beginning in 1989 and continuing each quadrennium since, members of the Church of the Nazarene have been encouraged to join in united prayer for the quadrennial General Assemblies and Conventions. The NMI challenges its members to pray one million hours for these concerns and has met the goal repeatedly.

H. 10/40 Window

In 1993, the AD2000 and Beyond Movement, an interdenominational ministry with a purpose for evangelizing the world, focused a prayer initiative on the 10/40 Window, a rectangular area between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator that encompasses much of the Middle East, northern Africa, and Asia. It is this area that has the highest concentration of unreached peoples. Nazarenes quickly joined in this monumental effort.

While the AD2000 and Beyond Movement no longer exists, people continue to focus their prayers on the 10/40 Window every other year in October. Prayer resources are readily available on the Internet, as well as other avenues. Nazarenes are challenged to continue to pray for the people who live in this area, as they are often some of the most persecuted people on earth.

I. Nazarene World Week of Prayer

In 1996 the annual Nazarene World Week of Prayer (NWWP) was initiated. Coordinating with the interdenominational World Day of Prayer, the purpose of NWWP is to re-ignite prayer flames, deepen commitment to prayer and fasting, and precipitate revival.

The NWWP is held annually beginning the Sunday prior to the World Day of Prayer (first Friday in March). A different region of the world is featured each day of the week, with requests on the Prayer Mobilization Line reflecting that day's featured region.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV) is the NWWP theme verse: "Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

J. International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church

On the second Sunday of each November, NMI joins thousands around the world in intercession through the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP). NMI seeks to draw Nazarenes' attention to the growing persecution of Christians.

The IDOP began in 1996 through the efforts of the World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF) in cooperation with a variety of denominations and faith-based organizations, and NMI joined the prayer effort in 1997. The event's primary focus is the work of intercessory prayer and citizen action – on behalf of persecuted Christians, their oppressors, and for those nations that promote or ignore persecution.

K. JESUS Film Harvest Partners

In 1998, Nazarenes took on a new prayer emphasis, that of praying for the Nazarene ministry of the *JESUS* film. At that time the Church of the Nazarene joined Campus Crusade for Christ to help show the *JESUS* film to everyone in the world in their own languages. Film teams were formed in the world mission regions, and Nazarenes around the world committed to intercede for them.

Within the first two years, more than 1 million converts could be attributed to JESUS Film Harvest Partners' efforts. The numbers continue to grow, with miraculous stories of God's grace, healing, and intervention reported weekly.

Leaders are urged to get up-to-date prayer requests by using the Prayer Mobilization Line, Missionary Profiles Online, and letters from missionaries (LINKS). Distributing these requests in the church bulletin or special handouts encourages NMI members to pray for missions in corporate and family worship and in personal devotion times. The importance of prayer cannot be over-emphasized. It is the very foundation of successful mission work.

II. MISSION EDUCATION

The second objective focuses on the importance of being informed about mission needs, results, and opportunities. The early leaders of the organization

realized that if people were going to be interested in missions, they would need to have a knowledge of missions.

A. Mission Education Curricula

As early as 1920, Mrs. J. T. Benson prepared a leaflet recommending that *The Other Sheep* (what is now the online *Engage* magazine) be used as a source of mission education. In 1922, leaflets on China and India and another for children were prepared.

The first study book, *Latin Americans, Our Southern Neighbors*, was published in 1927. After the death of Miss Fannie Claypool, the first general mission education coordinator, the General NMI Council established a study committee of three – the forerunner of the Correlated Study Committee and the current Age-Level Mission Education Committees and Mission Education Committee.

In 1958, mission education lessons were developed specifically for children. Lessons directed for youth also followed, although in many smaller churches the youth continue to meet with adults. Both the children's and youth curricula have been adapted over time to allow for more age-appropriate learning experiences. NMI values helping children and youth learn about missions early in life, so a passion for mission develops early.

In 2010-11, NMI developed *Living Mission* to inform, inspire, and involve people in God's mission. *Living Mission* provides videos, lessons, audios, "hands-on" projects called CAUSES, a website to which additional material is added throughout the year, a *Living Mission* Facebook page, and other resources. Beginning in 2012-13, the youth curriculum was based on the format and topics of *Living Mission*, but with youth-driven terminology.

The mission education lessons officially went international in 1987 with the *International Mission Education Journal (IMEJ)*, designed with a cross-cultural audience in mind. This publication is actually an abbreviated version of the adult and children's curricula in global English, which is later translated into other languages and dialects. With the *IMEJ*, Nazarenes around the world who may not have English as their first language may still learn about missions in the Church of the Nazarene.

B. NMI Missions Books

Besides the curricula, the Council soon inaugurated a reading program. In the beginning, people were urged to read missionary books published by the Nazarene Publishing House. In 1934, a Missionary Training Course was launched in which regular "assignments" were made.

The course originally consisted of the study book, the biography of an outstanding missionary (not necessarily Nazarene), and two missions books from a selected list. Teenagers were required to read 16 of 25 books during the quadrennium. Before regular studies for children were provided, interesting stories and pictures were published in a little sheet called *Junior Light Bearers*.

Now the Global NMI Council and Mission Education Committee give direction to the missions book program, providing 6 books for adults (3 of which are chosen with youth in mind – these become the youth set) and 6

books for children (3 for advanced readers and 3 for all readers). Some of the books for adults and children have been translated into languages other than English.

The decision to provide NMI missions book tapes was made by the General Council in the January 1964 meeting. Then in the 1965 Council meeting, preparation was authorized, along with designated readers approved. In 2003, the NMI missions books were also put on CD; and in 2012, the NMI mission books were offered in eBook and MP4 formats.

C. *Engage Magazine*

In the early days of NMI, members were urged to read *The Other Sheep*, a monthly “dividend report” of what was happening on the mission fields. When *The Other Sheep* (later *World Mission*) became the church’s official mission magazine, NMI was asked to promote the subscription campaign. One of the early requirements for special achievement was to have a “subscription agent” in the local church.

When the *Herald of Holiness* and *World Mission* magazines merged to become *Holiness Today*, the NMI ceased to be the subscription agent. However, NMI members are still encouraged to read the magazine for up-to-date mission information.

In 2009, *Engage* magazine was launched. This online magazine contains stories, articles, reviews, essays, photos, etc., and is offered in English and Spanish. People of all ages are encouraged to visit www.engagemagazine.com to learn about current events in Nazarene missions.

D. Deputation Services

Another valuable source of mission information is deputation services, in which a missionary or missionary family personally interacts with the congregation, telling about their experiences and giving firsthand accounts of life on the mission field. The local NMI president and pastor usually arrange these services with the missionary through the district NMI president and/or the deputation coordinator at the Nazarene Global Ministry Center. All ages benefit from meeting a missionary and listening as a “heart for missions is shared.” In fact, age-appropriate opportunities for children and youth to hear missionaries speak have often resulted in a child or young person later being called into missionary service.

E. Other

In the course of time, other educational materials have become available. These items have included slide sets, videotapes, films, DVDs, audiocassettes, *Global Glimpses* (a quarterly mission newsletter), the NMI website (www.nazarenemissions.org), etc.

Many churches learn about missions by viewing video segments available on the Nazarene Media Library or distributed via the Nazarene Stories website.

NMI Fast Facts were introduced in 2003, using statistics from the global NMI director's annual report. This resource was so inspirational to NMI leaders that it was translated into multiple languages in 2013.

In addition, the Mission Education category in Mission Priority One was revised in 1996 to allow Nazarenes to receive mission education credit for hands-on mission experiences, such as participating in mission service projects or attending district- or zone-sponsored mission events for all age levels.

Detailed suggestions on mission education for adults, youth, and children are given in the 2013-2017 *NMI Handbook and Constitution*. Read it carefully and evaluate what you are doing in your local church to meet this objective.

III. CHALLENGE TO CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Although mission education for youth and children had been a part of NMI since its early days, this specific objective was added about 1964. It is important to provide mission education and challenge for children and youth. A vast majority of Nazarene missionaries say they heard God's call to mission service early in life.

It is important that children and youth attend services in which missionaries speak. It is beneficial to arrange a time for the missionary to meet with the children and youth (separately, if possible) to give them an opportunity to ask questions and become acquainted with the missionary. Valuable suggestions are given in the 2013-2017 *NMI Handbook and Constitution*.

Though not a project specific to NMI, Youth In Mission (formerly Nazarene Evangelistic Ambassadors and Student Mission Corps) gives college-age youth hands-on mission experience. Because many Nazarene campuses had their own mission trip initiatives, Youth In Mission was set aside for a few years to refocus the ministry. In 2015, Youth In Mission was reintroduced with a focus mainly on students who attended non-Nazarene colleges and universities (although students of Nazarene institutions are also welcomed).

The Youth Mission Commitment Day was held first in November 1991 and continued quadrennially for a number of years. This event, joint-sponsored by NMI and Nazarene Youth International (NYI), was held to give children and youth an opportunity to consider ministry as a vocation. Commitment services were held all over the world, with many young people sensing a call into full-time Christian service.

The mission call coordinator was added to the local and district NMI councils in 2003. The role of this council member is "to find, encourage, and develop children, youth, and young adults who feel God's call to mission service."

Involving "GenNEXT" (children and youth) was augmented with the addition of an NMI Office staff person in 2006. The role of this person was to help intentionally integrate GenNEXT into the heart of local church missions globally. NMI began to collaborate more dynamically with NYI, Youth In Mission, Barefoot Ministries, Sunday School, and Children's Ministries.

NMI helped enable GenNEXT emerge as leaders while continuing to embrace saints deeply invested in missions. Older leaders were encouraged to begin mentoring younger leaders for every local and district council ministry.

Mission Immersion

In 2010, NMI partnered with Global Mission Mobilization and NYI to host Mission Immersion. This gathering was for high school students, specifically high school juniors and seniors, who had a definite call to serve as a missionary in a culture other than their own. The event included times of prayer, teaching, and learning. Plenary sessions and workshops offered biblical wisdom, personal narratives of how God leads His servants, and times of worship. The students experienced hands-on times of ministry and service to the community in the location where the students serve.

In 2014, the age limits were expanded. High school juniors and seniors continued to participate in Mission Immersion outside the USA/Canada Region; however, at this time, high school freshmen and sophomores were invited to serve within the USA/Canada Region.

Mission Immersion trips have been in the following locations:

- 2010 – Guatemala
- 2012 – Kenya
- 2014 – Quito, Ecuador; El Paso, Texas, USA

IV. RAISING FUNDS

The fourth objective of NMI is to assist in raising funds to carry on the mission work of the church.

A. World Evangelism Fund

The World Evangelism Fund (formerly General Budget) is one of the most important offerings in the Church of the Nazarene. In the early days, the WFMS took steps to help the local church raise funds for mission work. What was called general dues – 10 cents a month per member (\$1.20 a year) – was a part of the 1924 achievement program and was counted toward the World Evangelism Fund apportionment of the local church.

It soon developed that the main sources of the World Evangelism Fund were the Easter Offering, Thanksgiving Offering, Prayer and Fasting Offering, and more recently Faith Promise. In all these offerings, the NMI plays a significant part in encouraging, inspiring, and challenging people to give.

In 1949 when a financial crisis faced the Department of World Mission, members of the department, including Dr. Louise Chapman (then general NMI president), met for an all-night prayer time, asking God to give them a plan to meet the crisis. Early in the morning, God broke through and gave them the Ten Percent Plan – churches tithing their income just as individuals tithe their income.

But the need in 1949 was immediate and urgent. The churches were challenged to make the coming Easter Offering a record one. The WFMS joined with others and helped to raise \$800,000, the largest Easter Offering up to that time.

In recent years, some churches have adopted the Faith Promise plan which includes a specific amount for the World Evangelism Fund. In Faith Promise events, the pastor and NMI Council plan together throughout the church year

to make this an important occasion. (See the *NMI Handbook and Constitution* and the *Faith Promise Planner* for further information on Faith Promise.)

In 2009, a global plan for giving, based on a “tithe concept,” was implemented. Under the new plan called “Funding the Mission,” the World Evangelism Fund is raised regularly in local Churches of the Nazarene around the world. Based on income received, churches calculate 5.5 percent of the total and contribute it to the World Evangelism Fund.

Award of Excellence

In 1991, the Award of Excellence began, honoring those local churches overpaying their World Evangelism Fund by 3 percent or \$1,000, whichever is less. A district receives the district Award of Excellence by paying 100 percent of its World Evangelism Fund goal.

In an effort to encourage further giving to World Evangelism Fund, the Board of General Superintendents, at the suggestion of the General NMI Council, approved the Award of Excellence, a World Evangelism Fund overpayment plan, in 1992. All monies paid by the local church toward the World Evangelism Fund above their goal are used to explore and begin new work in specific areas of the world which are announced annually.

With the Funding the Mission plan, the titles of the awards were changed to “World Evangelism Church of Excellence” for a church that gave 5.7 percent of their income (or exceeded the 5.5 percent goal by \$1,500) and the “World Evangelism District of Excellence” for districts that give 5.5 percent of the district’s income.

B. World Mission Specials

1. Alabaster

In 1948, Rev. Elizabeth Vennum, General Council member, was asked to think and pray about a challenging project. At the General NMI Council meeting in 1949, Mrs. Vennum told of the plan God had given her – Alabaster love gifts to the Master.

The Board of General Superintendents approved the plan for Alabaster funds to be used exclusively for buildings and properties in cross-cultural ministries. Alabaster boxes were provided and openings held in September and February. The first full assembly year, 1949-50, brought in \$46,602.

The amount has increased from year to year. These Alabaster love gifts have financed or helped to finance more than 9,000 building projects (by 2012) – projects that probably would have been impossibilities had not Alabaster funds been available.

All monies continue to be used for building needs: 80 percent for world mission areas; 20 percent for multicultural ministries in the USA/Canada Region.

In 1994, the General NMI Council, in an attempt to generate additional money for Alabaster buildings, instituted the Alabaster Love Building (ALB) program. Alabaster Love Buildings provided opportunities through designated giving to meet specific needs and to

honor individuals. The intent of the program was to encourage individual or group gifts for buildings or property in honor or memory of someone or a church, and a customized plaque, designed by NMI, was placed in/on the building when completed. This facet of Alabaster was discontinued in 2007, as most churches continued to participate in the standard Alabaster Offering.

In 1997, the NMI introduced an Alabaster box specifically for children. It was designed to be visually appealing and to inspire children's participation in Alabaster offerings for buildings and land worldwide. The full-color children's Alabaster box has a "Noah's ark" theme which provides a storyline for parents to teach the Alabaster story to their children, reminding them of God's provision for His people around the world.

The General NMI Council set a \$5 million goal for 1999-2000 in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Alabaster. The anniversary goal was exceeded with \$6,091,700 given in the 1999-2000 years.

In 2012, NMI celebrated an Alabaster benchmark when Alabaster giving reached US \$100 million given since the offering's inception in 1949.

2. World Mission Broadcast

In 1953, a great need was pressing. The NMI was asked to raise \$10,000 for the Spanish Broadcast. This radio ministry has expanded until Nazarene radio programs are broadcast in more than 30 languages and dialects in more than 70 countries of the world. In 1997, the name of "World Mission Radio" was changed to "World Evangelism Broadcast" to set the stage for expansion in the future. In 2003 "World Evangelism Broadcast" became "World Mission Broadcast." Over the years, other types of broadcast ministry have been added, such as television, cell phone technology, the Internet, and others. Funds continue to be received to take the Gospel to the world, even the remotest regions that are inaccessible to missionaries or pastors. Broadcast, the "newspaper" of many peoples of the world, continues to carry the good news of salvation.

3. Missionary Health Care

As early as 1919, each member of the organization was asked to contribute 10 cents a year to the Relief and Retirement Fund to provide medical aid and pensions for missionaries. The contribution was gradually increased to 60 cents a year until 1976, when Relief and Retirement was adapted to cover medical expenses only and was renamed Medical Plan. (Retirement benefits are provided by the Global Mission Department.) In 2005 the name was changed to "Missionary Health Care" to more clearly identify the purpose of the offering. (Life Memberships at \$25 and Honorary Life Memberships at \$100 were also put in the Relief and Retirement Fund; these were discontinued in the 1940s.)

Due to the high cost of medical expenses, the money that comes in through Missionary Health Care each year only begins to cover the health care of Nazarene missionaries; the remaining costs must be taken from the

World Evangelism Fund. To free WEF monies for use in fields around the world, local churches are encouraged to give generously to Missionary Health Care.

The Memorial Roll began in 1919 and stipulated the contribution of \$25 to place the name of a deceased loved one or friend on the Memorial Roll. The amount was raised to \$30 in 1976 and to \$50 in 1990. This money was originally put in the Relief and Retirement Fund, and the Memorial Roll was later listed as a Missionary Health Care program. In 2004, a Memorial Roll certificate for children was introduced; it memorializes young people through age 18.

In 1976, to help raise additional funds for Missionary Health Care, the Distinguished Service Award (\$100 each) was introduced. The award, given by a church or a group in the church, honors a living person for his or her service in the church.

In 2001, a new facet of the program was introduced – Gifts from the Heart. Individuals may donate to Missionary Health Care for anniversaries, birthdays, new arrivals, retirements, in lieu of flowers, or “just because.” Churches received an attractive display designed to set on a table or hang on a wall with one set each of “In Honor” and “In Memory” cards. (Refills for the cards – in English and in Spanish – may be ordered from Nazarene Publishing House.) Individuals determine the donations for Gifts from the Heart, and an attractive card announces the gift in honor of the occasion. While Gifts from the Heart was an addition, it did not replace the other Missionary Health Care opportunities for participation.

NMI continues to promote the Memorial Roll, Distinguished Service Award, Gifts from the Heart, and Missionary Health Care plate offerings to provide for the medical needs of both active and retired missionaries and their families.

4. LINKS

Box Work, now known as LINKS (Loving, Interested Nazarenes, Knowing and Sharing) began in the Southern California District in 1916. The Box Work project grew until, in 1922, a Box Work Committee of three was appointed with Mrs. Paul F. (Ada) Bresee as chairman.

In 1976, the LINKS program was introduced, expanding Box Work to the “adoption” of a missionary (active or retired) or missionary family. This involves praying for them, writing letters, providing cash for personal needs, remembering the missionaries and their children on birthdays, at Christmas, and on anniversaries.

5. Missionary Christmas Fund

The Missionary Christmas Fund began in the early 1950s. This emphasis ensures that all missionary families will receive money for Christmas gifts and subscriptions to denominational periodicals.

6. Work & Witness

In 1972, Dr. Paul Gamertsfelder was one of the first two men elected to the General NMI Council (the other was Dr. Morris Weigelt). Dr. Gamertsfelder was challenged to “do something to stimulate interest for the men to get them more active in NMI.” This was the beginning of “Men in Mission” (later Work & Witness).

Gamertsfelder used his own district as the pilot for the first Work & Witness team in 1973, whereby men would pay their own passages to mission fields and use their skills to build the Kingdom. By 1976, the program had become so popular that the Global Mission Department hired a full-time Work & Witness coordinator.

Women, wishing to experience the satisfaction of “putting their hands to the plow,” soon joined the men on Work & Witness trips. Over time, men and women with an intense desire to advance the kingdom of God have enlisted their time, money, and skills to help build much-needed facilities, as well as share their personal testimonies with many around the world. And Work & Witness has expanded with youth and children occasionally participating. Christian commitment, dedicated service, and willing sacrifice are the key words that best describe this missions miracle.

Work & Witness teams are formed through the NMI on the local and district levels. Information concerning Work & Witness is in the *NMI Handbook and Constitution*.

7. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries

With hunger and disaster prevalent in many world areas, concerned Christians respond by sharing their blessings with those in great need. In 1984, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) was formed to facilitate the (compassionate) ministry effort of the Church of the Nazarene around the world.

The NCM Global Fund makes immediate financial assistance available when disaster strikes and assists people in extreme need throughout the world. The NCM Global Fund began as the Nazarene Hunger and Disaster Fund in 1975, when Nazarenes began giving spontaneously and compassionately to help victims of famine, earthquakes, and other natural disasters. Since then, it has expanded to also provide health education, child development, and self-help programs, as well as other types of survival assistance throughout the world. As a result, the name of the fund was officially changed in 1991.

The Child Sponsorship program helps feed, house, clothe, and educate children around the world who would not otherwise have such necessities.

Compassionate Ministry Centers are non-profit organizations meeting the needs of the under-resourced on the USA/Canada Region. They meet urgent and long-term needs, such as homelessness, hunger, health care, AIDS, unplanned pregnancies, chemical dependencies, lack of job skills, or other situations that fill people with hopelessness and despair. The process for a church to become a Compassionate Ministry Center is listed here:

<http://usacanadaregion.org/cmc-registration-and-forms>.

In the past, any Nazarene congregation that was actively involved in ministry to the needs of people could be designated as a Good Samaritan Church. The recognition was given both to churches with ongoing programs of assistance, as well as those churches engaged in short-term emergency assistance, such as disaster relief.

In 1994, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Inc., and NMI joined forces to form the MedCare Pak program. As medicine around the world changed from curative to preventative health care, MedCare Paks provided basic medicines and medical supplies for world areas in need. Sending MedCare Paks to a variety of world areas became more difficult due to problems with customs.

The MedCare Pak program was replaced with Crisis Care Kits (CCKs), two-gallon ziplock bags with basic hygiene items in them that can be shipped virtually anywhere. The first year CCKs were gathered in 2000, resulting in 22,200 kits made available for victims of earthquakes, floods, and other disasters. Since they were introduced, caring people have donated a total of 625,913 CCKs. Information on CCKs is available on the NMI website.

In 2005 the School Pal-Pak (SPP) program began to allow people to help students around the world by providing packages of needed school supplies. Each SPP includes enough supplies to be shared between two students. Since their inception, people have donated a total of 97,270 SPPs. Information on SPPs is available on the NMI website.

C. Special World Mission Projects

Through the years, the NMI has sponsored special projects, usually promoted for just one year. Here are some of the major ones:

- **1948 – Fitkin Bible Training School**, China: \$74,000. In honor of Susan Fitkin’s retirement as president of the society.
- **1954 – Opening of Papua New Guinea**: \$100,000. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the NMI.
- **1959 – Juniors’ offering to open work in Samoa**: \$40,000.
- **1964-65 – To build the hospital in Papua New Guinea**: \$150,000. NMI 50th anniversary project.
- **1964 – Africa Literature Fund**: \$50,000. In honor of Dr. Louise Chapman’s retirement as NMI president.
- **1982 – Venezuela Project Offering**: \$592,000. To open the work there.
- **1986 – *International Mission Education Journal***: \$75,646. In memory of Wanda Knox, former missionary and general NMI director.
- **1990 – “Hong Kong and Beyond” Evangelism in Hong Kong/Chinese communities worldwide**: \$885,484. NMI 75th anniversary project.
- **1992 – 100th birthday project for World Evangelism Broadcast**: \$191,769. In honor of Dr. Louise Chapman’s 100th birthday.
- **1996 – Casa Robles 50th Anniversary**: \$150,000. To provide needed items for the missionary retirement center in California.

- **1996 – International Student Scholarship Fund:** \$350,000. NMI 80th anniversary project.
- **1997 – “Wings for the Gospel”:** \$500,000. NMI denomination-wide children’s project for Nazarene Mission Aviation (Mexico/Central America and Africa Regions).
- **2000 – Alabaster 50th Anniversary:** \$6,091,700. Received in the 1999–2000 years.
- **2004 – “Witness on Wheels” (WOW):** \$419,000. NMI denomination-wide children’s project to provide transportation for ministry to children and their leaders (Asia-Pacific, Caribbean, Eurasia, and South America Regions).
- **2004–06 – “Books for Pastors – Tools for Ministry”:** \$2.6 million. NMI 90th anniversary project. The Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library, established in 2013 at www.whdl.org, was a direct result of people’s giving to “Books for Pastors – Tools for Ministry.” It is a free, open access, digital resource of books, literature, multimedia material, and archives initiated by the Church of the Nazarene in response to the global need for access to resources for education, lifelong learning, and specifically ministerial preparation.
- **2014–15 – “100 Years, One Mission, Eternal Opportunities”:** global participation. NMI 100th anniversary project.

THE YARD STICK

Early in the organization, the leaders recognized the need for a standard by which to measure achievements. The Standard and Superior Societies (1924), the Seven-Point Society (early ‘50s), and the Star Society (1956) served as the yard sticks until 1976 when the Mission Award program was introduced. The name of Mission Award was changed to Mission Priority One in 2002.

In 1946, Susan Fitkin wrote, “Our Standard Society sheet is never to be considered an end to the means....Our societies do not become Standard or Superior merely to attract attention at the District Assembly or to win admiration and praise alone....Again and again we reiterate that prayer, mission study, and missionary giving are the chief objectives of our work. ...It is a religious thing to have a live, praying, giving society of missionary people (sic) who know whereof they speak, when it comes to missions and missionaries of the Church of the Nazarene.”

In 1953, a Seven-Point Goal was mentioned, with the following points:

- A lesson from the Study Book EACH MONTH
- At least HALF your members reading the missionary reading course books
- MEMBERSHIP increasing
- Members PRAYING AND FASTING
- MONTHLY EMPHASIS followed regularly
- Local church “sold” on the OTHER SHEEP until at least three-fourths of them take it for themselves or send it to someone else, and EVERYONE wants to read it
- DUES coming in to the local treasurer, either by freewill offerings or by individual payment
- Meeting held EVERY MONTH

- Sharing in the OFFICIAL BOX WORK accepted by the district.

The Star Society had five points:

- Prayer & Fasting – 75 percent of total NMI membership
- Membership – increase of 7 percent or equal to 60 percent of church membership
- Study – complete the study book
- Reading – three-book readers equal to 60 percent of NMI membership
- *Other Sheep* – subscriptions equivalent to 60 percent of church membership

Mission Award and Mission Priority One further simplified the plan:

1. The church prayed for missions.
2. The church disciplined and involved children and youth in local and global missions.
3. The church gave at least 5.5 percent of current income for the WEF.
4. The church participated* in *each* of the four education categories that follow:
 - a. NMI missions books/tapes/CDs
 - b. Missions service projects and/or hands-on missions activities.
 - c. Missions speakers
 - d. Multimedia missions resources and/or missions publications/communications

* “Participate” is defined as involvement in one or more activities in *each* category.

It is evident from this brief account of the NMI that there has been a definite and determined effort to fulfill the objectives set for this auxiliary organization.

NMI LEADERS

In the course of this development, eight persons have served as general president, and five as executive secretary/general director.

General Presidents

Rev. Mrs. Susan N. Fitkin	1919–1948 (29 years)
Dr. Louise R. Chapman	1948–1964 (16 years)
Rhoda Olsen Taylor	1964–1972 (8 years)*
Bea Oliver	1972–1980 (8 years)
Lela Jackson	1980–1989 (9 years)
Barbara Flemming	1989–1996 (7 years)**
Beverlee Borbe	1997–2001 (4 years)
Rev. Eunice Brubaker	2001–2009 (8 years)
Rev. Jennifer Brown	2009–2013 (4 years)
Dr. Philip Weatherill	2013–

* The term of the general president was limited to two consecutive quadrennia or quinquennia in 1964.

** Resigned during term for health reasons.

General NMI Secretaries

Dr. Julia Gibson	1919–1920
Rosa Codding	1920–1923; 1928–1940

Mrs. E. G. Anderson 1923-1928

Executive Secretaries/General Directors

Emma B. Word	1940-1949
(served as General Secretary and General NMI Treasurer)	
Dr. Mary L. Scott	1950-1975
Wanda Knox	1975-1980
Dr. Phyllis H. Perkins	1980-1986
Dr. Nina G. Gunter	1986-2005
Dr. Daniel Ketchum	2005-2014
Lola Brickey	2015-

The Global NMI Council is composed of the global president, the global director, and 15 regional representatives, 5 of whom are representatives outside the USA/Canada Region. The director of the Global Mission Department is an ex officio member of the Council. A list of the current Global Council members is given in the *NMI Handbook and Constitution*.

The organization, in the early days nicknamed the “Dustpan Brigade,” has proven its worth as a bulwark of the Nazarene mission enterprise, fulfilling the objectives for which it was begun. Its story is one of success and mammoth proportions. May it ever be so, for the glory of God!

Written by
Mary L. Scott
Gail L. Sawrie
Revised 3/2015

TIME CHART

- 1899 • Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) organized in Providence, Rhode Island
- 1915 • Organization officially recognized on the general level (natal date of organization—October 8, 1915)
- 1916 • General Board of Foreign Missions appoints committee of three (Susan Fitkin, Ada Bresee, and Eva Benson) to prepare a constitution and bylaws
- 1919 • First meeting of the appointed Woman's General Missionary Committee—Executive Committee elected
 - Memorial Roll introduced
 - Relief and Retirement Fund established
 - Rev. Mrs. Susan N. Fitkin became general president
- 1920 • First WMS page in *The Other Sheep*
- 1921 • First missionary picture set published
 - Mrs. Ada Bresee appointed the first Box Work (LINKS) secretary
- 1923 • The WMS Constitution officially adopted and placed in the *Manual*
 - Woman's General Missionary Committee changed to Woman's General Missionary Council and the 16 members elected by the General Assembly
 - Missionary Pamphlets/Leaflets (became books) initiated
- 1924 • Requirements for Standard and Superior Societies established
 - Prayer and Fasting League introduced
- 1927 • First adult study book published
- 1928 • First General WMS Convention held in June in Columbus, Ohio
 - Global Council members elected by the Convention instead of General Assembly
 - Name changed to Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS)
- 1940 • Twenty-fifth anniversary year
- 1946 • First issue of *General Council Tidings*
- 1948 • Rev. Mrs. Susan Fitkin retires (Project—Fitkin Bible Training School)
 - Dr. Louise R. Chapman elected general president
- 1949 • Alabaster giving launched
 - Ten Percent Giving introduced
- 1950 • Dr. Mary L. Scott became executive secretary

- 1952
 - Men became active members
 - Name changed to Nazarene Foreign Missionary Society (NFMS)
 - Star Society introduced (replaced Standard Society)
- 1953
 - Prayer Chart introduced
 - First offering for Spanish Broadcast (World Mission Broadcast)
- 1955
 - Fortieth Anniversary Project – Offering to open Nazarene work in Papua New Guinea (received in 1954)
- 1958
 - Saturday Night SKYWATCH – Prayer
 - Children’s lessons appear in *Junior Topics*
- 1964
 - Dr. Louise Chapman retires (Project – Africa Literature Fund)
 - Rhoda Olsen elected general president
 - Name changed to Nazarene World Missionary Society (NWMS)
 - Executive secretary became chief executive officer
- 1965
 - Fiftieth Anniversary Project – Papua New Guinea hospital
 - NMI reading book tapes began
- 1972
 - Bea Oliver elected general president
 - First men elected to the General Council (Dr. Paul Gamertsfelder and Dr. Morris Weigelt)
- 1974
 - Men in Missions (Work & Witness) program introduced by the General Council
- 1975
 - Dr. Mary Scott retires
 - Mrs. Wanda Knox became executive secretary
 - *The Other Sheep* changed to *World Mission* magazine
- 1976
 - Distinguished Service Award introduced
 - Box Work expanded to LINKS
 - Mission Award introduced (replaced Star Society)
 - Number of international representatives expanded on the General Council
- 1980
 - Lela Jackson elected general president
 - Dr. Phyllis H. Perkins became general director (title changed from executive secretary)
 - *General Council Tidings* changed to *Focus*;
 - Name changed to Nazarene World Mission Society
- 1981
 - Prayer Mobilization Line introduced
- 1982
 - Venezuela Project
- 1983
 - Revision of Children’s Mission Education curriculum

- 1985
 - Revision of Youth Mission Education curriculum
 - Mission Award program revised
 - Men in Missions program becomes Work & Witness program
- 1986
 - Dr. Nina G. Gunter elected general director
 - Nazarene Compassionate Ministries added to NWMS Calendar of Emphases
 - First issue of *HeartLine*
- 1987
 - First issue of *International Mission Education Journal* (Wanda Knox Memorial Project)
 - Local and District Resource notebooks introduced
 - LINKS became international
- 1988
 - “Kids’ World” page introduced in *World Mission* magazine
 - Youth and children groups are given mission names (AMBASSADORS – Children, ACTION – Youth)
 - Medical Plan became international
- 1989
 - First Million Hours of Prayer plan for General Assembly and Conventions
 - “Hong Kong and Beyond,” NMI 75th Anniversary project, introduced; goal: \$750,000
 - Barbara Flemming elected general president
 - *Meet Your Missionaries* book changed to “Missionary Prayer Box”
- 1990
 - NMI 75th Anniversary celebrated (Project – Hong Kong and Beyond – \$885,484)
 - First District Presidents’ Gathering
 - *Global Glimpses* introduced
- 1991
 - First Youth Mission Commitment Day observed by NMI and NYI
 - Award of Excellence began (World Evangelism Fund Overpayment Plan)
 - Bibles for Russia project initiated
- 1992
 - 100th Birthday Project Offering for World Evangelism Broadcast – in honor of Dr. Louise Chapman’s 100th birthday
- 1993
 - First issue of international cookbook
 - Praying Through the Window, an interdenominational prayer effort for the 10/40 Window introduced, and NMI encourages participation
- 1994
 - Alabaster Love Building Program put into place
 - MedCare Paks Project instituted in cooperation with NCM
 - NMI 2000 Committee met to identify and discuss direction for NMI in the 21st century
 - 80th Anniversary Project – NMI International Student Scholarship

Fund – initiated in honor of the celebration in 1995 – \$350,000

- 1995
 - Youth Mission Commitment Day 2 held
 - NMI and Global Mission Department team to produce *World Mission Video Magazine*
 - NMI website and Global Information Network set up on the Internet
 - Prayer Mobilization Line expanded to E-mail and website
 - NMI 80th Anniversary celebrated
 - Casa Robles 50th Anniversary Project (to provide items for the missionary retirement center in 1996) – \$150,000
- 1996
 - Regional program coordinators put in place on each world mission region
 - Nazarene World Week of Prayer first observed
 - Mission education point in Mission Award program expanded to include learning processes in addition to reading books and curriculum
 - Casa Robles 50th Anniversary celebrated (October 12)
- 1997
 - “Wings for the Gospel” – Denomination-wide NWMS/Children’s Ministries joint project for Nazarene Mission Aviation initiated – \$502,000
 - Beverlee Borbe elected general president
 - The name “World Evangelism Fund” replaces “General Budget”
 - NMI participates in International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church for the first time
 - Children’s Alabaster Box introduced
 - “World Evangelism Broadcast” replaces “World Mission Radio”
- 1998
 - Organized prayer for the JESUS Film Harvest Partners ministry initiated
- 1999
 - Youth Mission Commitment Day 3 held
 - *Mission Connection* replaces *Focus*
- 2000
 - Alabaster 50th Anniversary celebrated 1999-2000 – \$6,091,700
 - Crisis Care Kits program replaces MedCare Paks
- 2001
 - Gifts from the Heart, a new avenue of Medical Plan giving, introduced
 - Name changed to Nazarene Missions International
 - Rev. Eunice Brubaker elected general president
- 2002
 - “Mission Award” changed to “Mission Priority One”
- 2003
 - Mission call coordinator added as an NMI council position
 - Emergency Medical Plan Offering received in May
 - Witness on Wheels, cooperative offering project between NMI and

- Children's Ministries — \$400,000
 - "World Evangelism Broadcast" becomes "World Mission Broadcast"
 - NMI Fast Facts introduced, using statistics from the general NMI director's report
- 2004
- District NMI Presidents' Work & Witness trip to Brazil
 - Memorial Roll for Children introduced
 - "Books for Pastors — Tools for Ministry," NMI 90th anniversary project for 2004-05, initiated — amount given: \$2.6 million
 - Membership secretary deleted as an NMI council position, as it is everyone's role to include people as members in NMI
- 2005
- School Pal-Paks, a cooperative project with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, initiated
 - "Medical Plan" name changed to "Missionary Health Care"
 - Mission Priority One program revised to be more simple and international
 - NMI Constitution reorganized
 - NMI 90th Anniversary celebrated; 'Books for Pastors' project extended through 2006
 - Dr. Daniel D. Ketchum elected global director (formerly "general director") — the first male global NMI director
- 2006
- GenNEXT liaison added as member of NMI Office staff
 - NMI leaders encouraged to mentor young people to plan for future mission leaders
- 2008
- Prayer Vision Tour for district NMI presidents to Ethiopia and Kenya
- 2009
- Funding the Mission giving plan implemented
 - Rev. Jennifer Brown elected global president — the first president elected from outside the USA/Canada Region
- 2010
- *Living Mission* — the revised adult mission education curriculum — is introduced
 - *Living Mission* Facebook page initiated
 - Mission Immersion introduced for high-school juniors and seniors; trip to Guatemala
- 2011
- Prayer Mobilization Line Facebook page initiated
 - Nazarene Missions International Facebook page initiated
- 2012
- NMI Mission Books offered in eBook formats
 - Youth component of *Living Mission* introduced
 - Global NMI Handbook released
 - Prayer Vision Journey for district NMI presidents to Sri Lanka and

- India
 - Mission Immersion to Kenya
 - Alabaster giving reaches US \$100 million since the offering's inception
 - Prayer Mobilization Line expanded to include Spanish translation
- 2013
- Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library, product of "Books for Pastors" project, goes live
 - Global NMI Convention takes place globally via live streaming video in 11 sites
 - Dr. Philip Weatherill elected global president – the first male president
 - Fast Facts released in multiple languages
- 2014
- "100 Years, One Mission, Eternal Opportunities," NMI 100th Anniversary project, initiated – goal: global participation
 - Mission Immersion age limits expanded – high-school juniors and seniors to Quito Ecuador, high-school freshman and sophomores to El Paso, Texas
- 2015
- Lola Brickey elected global NMI director
 - Prayer Mobilization Line expanded to include Portuguese translation
 - NMI 100th Anniversary celebrated

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