



Time to Rethink a Few Things

by Darryl Bennett

Many of you have said that *Mission Connection* is one of the most valuable tools we offer for the local NMI president. We understand that, and we are also very aware that it has been arriving late. For that we are very sorry.

When things aren't working the way they should, we must reevaluate the situation. Changes need to be made.

Beginning with this issue, January 2010, we will no longer have tips, ideas, and information for just one month. Included are tips, ideas, and information for January, February, and March. February's issue will have ideas for March and April, with a reminder that in February your church should be promoting Alabaster. The plan is to have two months' promotional ideas at least one month in advance.

By providing ideas in advance, you will have more time to prepare, using the ideas from *Mission Connection* as they are written or modifying them to fit your church's needs and culture.

If, in the process, an article lights up your creativity and you come up with something altogether new, we would love to read your idea. Send your ideas to Gail Sawrie at gsawrie@nazarene.org. (For details about contributors' guidelines, see the News and Announcements page.) Please share with us, so we can share your ideas with others. We are always looking for more ideas.

This month, to give you additional ideas in advance, we have pulled some previous pieces you may have seen in past *Mission Connection* issues. We have the February issue slated to go out on February 1, so you will completely fresh ideas then.

We value you and your efforts for NMI and want to supply you with the tools you need. May the Lord bless those efforts.

Darryl Bennett is the webmaster for the NMI Web site and technical designer for Mission Connection.



A Quick Breakdown of Funding the Mission

by Stewardship Ministries

NMI presidents, long accustomed to tracking mission giving through an antiquated Web site application, will enjoy the many technological advantages of Funding the Mission, the new denominational plan for raising the World Evangelism Fund (WEF).

The Web site, www.fundingthemission.org, incorporates the mission story of the Church of the Nazarene and answers the Who, What, When, and Why questions. It is within the content of this Web site that you'll find information and relevant links to statistics, honors, awards, and an online calculator.

While the plan for funding global mission is based on church income, the Board of General Superintendents voted to exempt mission giving from the base. Mission giving includes offerings for World Evangelism Fund, Approved Mission Specials, Point-to-Point giving, and Ten Percent projects. This exemption makes the calculation (shown below for WEF) somewhat laborious:

Church Income
- Mission Giving
Adjusted Base

Adjusted Base
x 0.055*
WEF Contribution

* For Pensions & Benefits (P&B), this line would be 0.02; for Education, it would be 0.025.

Anticipating questions about the calculation, members of the Budget Formula Implementation Team (BFIT) at the Global Ministry Center contracted the Information Technology department to build an online application that would help pastors, church treasurers, and NMI presidents to calculate their allocations for WEF, P&B, and Education.

The online application, accessed through www.fundingthemission.org by clicking on Login in the upper-right side of the page, is part of the NazID system. If you do not have a NazID login and PIN, contact your pastor. Each church will have three accounts. Your three accounts may be in use, but sharing accounts is permissible.

The online application connects seamlessly to Global Treasury Services' records and will show line-by-line all transactions, pending transactions, and individual contributions for which your church received credit.

The main page, called the Dashboard, provides an excellent overview of your church's progress toward WEF, P&B, and Education goals. Your district may also

utilize this resource using an administrator login to add district support line items, so be aware of possible district additions.

District personnel will be trained on NazID and the Funding the Mission calculator in the first few months of 2010, so you may contact someone on your district for assistance. Contact the district office for the name and contact information of trained personnel.

For more information about Funding the Mission or to schedule an appointment with Global NMI Director Daniel Ketchum or Mark E. Lail (director of Stewardship Ministries and BFIT chairman), please contact NMI at nmi@nazarene.org or Stewardship Ministries at stewardship@nazarene.org respectively.



Faith Promise Basics

Faith promise is giving by trusting in God's covenants with us. Faith promise commitments (not pledges) are given systematically for global mission, rather than merely twice a year. Easter and Thanksgiving offerings are included in this giving plan. For faith promise, people pray about the amount they should give for global mission (beyond their tithe). They give weekly, biweekly, monthly, or a one-time gift.

Faith promise giving goals should be projected exclusively for mission purposes around the world, on the district, and through the local church. Churches discover that they raise or exceed their mission goal through faith promise giving.

How to Set Faith Promise Giving Goals

Funding the Mission, the new giving plan, is based on current income. No World Evangelism Fund (WEF) allocation will be assigned to local churches. Even without a predetermined budget allocation, local churches can prepare to participate in our global mission by budgeting and planning. Here are a few suggestions that will help to set faith promise goals for the next year:

1. Ask your pastor and council to discuss mission giving goals for the next year.
2. Estimate the total your church will give for all purposes during the current year.
3. Calculate 5.5 percent of this total; this is your estimated WEF goal.
4. Estimate the total your church will give for global mission during the current year.
5. Compare this amount to the 5.5 percent goal you estimated in #3 above.
6. Remember that 5.5 percent or 5.7 percent are minimum goals; trust God and add a faith margin.
7. Pray and believe that your people will give more (not less) for mission than before.
8. Set and promote your goal for the next year.
9. Involve every family in praying and preparing for global giving along with every Church of the Nazarene around the world.
10. Trust God's promise to "do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20).



Daniel Ketchum, Ph.D.
Global NMI Director





Challenge for the New Year

Fellow Global Mission Partners:

I wish for you all a very bright, productive and Spirit-filled year!

No doubt the year 2010 will start out quite vigorously and energetically across the globe. We will continue to hear of wars and rumours of wars, disasters, famine, violence, crime, and sickness. We will read about or perhaps share in some of these experiences.

But in the midst of all of this, the Word of God in Psalms 46:10, echoes and transcends the nations, “Be still and know that I am God.” He reminds us that He is still in control. He is our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of life. He will guide us with His eyes!

A new year holds the possibility of new beginnings—a new name, a new song, a new covenant, new ideas, and renewed passion. His mercies are new every morning! It is my prayer that there will be much excitement in our local churches and across our regions as we seek to promote missions through NMI.

I challenge us to raise NMI to a new level. We must be A2 + E2—Armed, Able and Extremely Effective. “Armed” and “Able” speak to the whole matter of “praying” and “educating,” while being “Extremely Effective” addresses “disciplining” and “giving.” Let us endeavour to reflect this A2 + E2 approach with passion, as we shift our focus from a calendar/offerings/program emphasis to one that embraces our fourfold objectives. Do remember that action speaks louder than words.

Finally, in everything we do, let us repeatedly ask ourselves, “who is watching me?” The response—our children, our friends, our neighbours, our world, and our God!

Let us boldly go forth in this new year and continue to care for the hurting, the lost, and the dying among us. We must declare the message of the Cross and to Make Christlike Disciples in the Nations!

**“Passionate People Are Driven
Towards the Goal!”**



Jennifer Brown
Global NMI President



Fresh Promotion? Create a Video!

We are all looking for the next new thing in promoting special emphases in the local church. It seems now the cutting edge has even become dull.

Do you own a digital video camera? Try creating a YouTube (or equivalent) video!

For instance, if you are promoting an upcoming Work & Witness to your congregation, take a field trip to a local construction site (if you will be working on a building).* Ask for permission to video the workers for a few moments. If possible, include a few people from your church in the video. Add a few still shots that include details of the trip (perhaps a map, dates, cost, contact info, etc.).

A side benefit of a YouTube-type video is the opportunity to communicate with more than your local church at basically no cost. The more creative, the better. If you are unclear about how to put a video on YouTube, ask one of the teens or young adults in your church. Involving more people creates more ownership of a project.

With just a few hours of work, the results will be a promotional tool that is fresh, creative, and multi-functional.

* Note: If your team will be doing something else, such as evangelism training or VBS, choose an appropriate location to shoot your video.

Tawanda Mills
Southeast Regional
Global Council Representative



'High Tea' for Work & Witness

Eighty women from the Northeast Zone of the British Isles South District assembled for a "Ladies High Tea" in Leeds. The event was scheduled to raise money for the Work & Witness project in Hungary.

The women were asked to dress as if they were attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace. All the ladies wore hats; and after the tea, they paraded around the church while the men chose the winning hat.

The men of the zone, dressed in white shirts, black trousers, and bow ties, served as waiters. The food consisted sandwiches, cakes, and many delicious desserts served on china tea services.

In conjunction with the tea, the zone had an auction of gift-wrapped items, flower arrangements, and mounted photographs of the Yorkshire Dales.

The day was hard work for the local NMI but good fun, and the zone raised over £600 (approximately US\$980). Those in attendance asked when the next high tea would be hosted. Leadership thinks another one may be planned for 2011 to support the next Work & Witness team.



Beryl Clarkson
British Isles South District

The women were asked to dress as if they were attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace. All the ladies wore hats; and after the tea, they paraded around the church while the men chose the winning hat.

First Three Work & Witness Teams to a Country

In the beginning of our church (when the church began in this country), I had a dream. I shared my dream with many of our leaders. Some of them advised me to wait; a few of them discouraged me.

But I am thankful to the Lord that my dream has been fulfilled through Mr. David Argabright and Pastor Jeff Jackson when they brought the Work & Witness team here for the first time. They worked from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the hot weather of summer and constructed two Village Ministry Centers (church buildings).

Under the leadership of Mr. Argabright and Pastor Jackson, the second and third team constructed three Village Ministry Centers in two more locations in October–November 2008. The centers will be used as Child Development Centers in the future.

I am very thankful to each and every person in the Work & Witness teams. Their hard work and sacrifice is truly praiseworthy. Hundreds of people have come to know Jesus in every village through their work. The team members came here expending a lot of money. We could not arrange good accommodations and good food for them, but none of them has complained.

I am very thankful, David and Jeff. I will never forget your love and sacrifice for us. I congratulate each and every person in the Work & Witness teams. May God bless you all.

I am thankful to the Area Planning Team members of the Village Ministry Center locations for their hard work with the Work & Witness teams. May God bless you.

Leader in a Secure Area

I am very thankful to each and every person in the Work & Witness teams. Their hard work and sacrifice is truly praiseworthy. Hundreds of people have come to know Jesus in every village through their work.



Nothing Given to Jesus Is Wasted

Cast:

- Narrator
- Singer
- Young woman to mime the part of the woman in Matthew 26: 6-13—may dress in biblical attire or in regular attire, using a length of material as a scarf on her head
- Young man to mime the part of Jesus—may dress in biblical attire or in regular attire, using a length of material knotted at the shoulder and draped across chest and back down to opposite hip
- Three young people carrying posters (see content below)

Setting:

Have two persons mime the scene where the woman washes the feet of Jesus in Matthew 26: 6-13 (scriptural basis of the Alabaster giving plan).

(As miming takes place, Narrator reads Matthew 26:6-13 and Singer sings the first verse and chorus of "Alabaster Box". After verse and chorus are completed, the mimes freeze in place for the rest of the sketch.)

Narrator: What do you think of when you hear the word "Alabaster"? For some, it is "offering"; for others, it is "sacrifice" or "love."

Jesus could see into the woman's heart. He was encouraged by her display of love. She had used her money to purchase the utmost. She used her time to pour it out on His head. What a sacrifice! What demonstration of love! He knew that her desire was to give that which was precious, and so He had nothing but commendation for her. It was not the value of the gift but her motive in giving.

In preparation for the Alabaster Offering, write down the names of several people you love and for whom you would be willing to make a sacrifice.

Pray about the amount you will give to Alabaster this month. Watch your offering grow before your eyes!

(During the singing of the second verse of the song, have three young people walk among the congregation with posters, on which is written the following.)



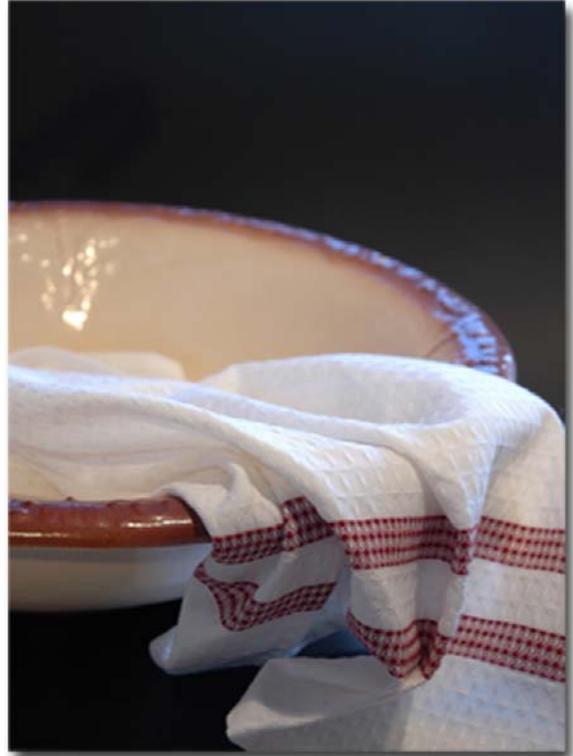
Poster Content:

Give sacrificially!

Give from a heart of love!

Give to help provide:

- Churches
- Missionary/National Workers' homes
- Bible Schools/Seminaries
- Hospitals/Clinics
- Mission district Centres
- Land
- Miscellaneous



Our Alabaster goal is \$ _____.

Jennifer Brown
Global NMI President



March World Evangelism Fund

Short and Sweet Easter Offering Ideas

- **Keep It Before the People**—This is what helps most in raising World Evangelism Fund (WEF).
- **Make Your Promotion Personal**—Letters/pictures of missionaries, people's involvement, and attention to details open the hearts of people. For instance, ask three people to tell how they have been touched by a missionary's life and either video it, put a quote on PowerPoint, or print in your church's newsletter or bulletin.
- **Use Statistics**—Present a few at a time frequently to increase awareness of world need and NMI involvement. For three weeks in a row, print the number of Nazarene missionaries on PowerPoint or in your newsletter/bulletin. (See the Fast Facts page on the NMI Web site [www.nazarenemissions.org].) A week later, give a prize to the first one to correctly answer "How many missionaries does the Church of the Nazarene have?" Then give the following explanation, "World Evangelism Fund helps put missionaries in world areas and pays their salaries, among other things."
- **Plan to Overpay**—Ask the pastor to give a five-minute devotional on fasting. Challenge the audience to take part in prayer and fasting for WEF overpayment. Provide small cards to write the date and meal of the fast as a reminder.
- **Talk to a Missionary**—If the church has the capabilities, arrange for a direct phone or video call with a missionary a week or two before an offering. Alert the missionary to emphasize WEF in the conversation. Be aware of the time of day where that missionary serves.
- **Ask a Missionary**— If a personal call isn't possible, ask if they will send you a PowerPoint presentation or a short note and photos about how WEF helps them serve as a missionary. Ask your LINKS missionary to write; it will provide a personal touch for your church.
- **Promote in Many Places**— Ask if NMI may have an allotted space to print the WEF (or faith promise) goal, amount raised, and



amount remaining in every issue of the church newsletter/bulletin.

Suggest the space move slightly, so readers will notice it more readily. An occasional video or PowerPoint reminder will also be effective.

- **Offerings Should Be Publicized**—Print the dates of Thanksgiving and Easter Offerings in every issue of the church newsletter/bulletin at least two months before the offering.
- **Visit the Nazarene Media Library for Video Resources**—The Nazarene Media Library (www.nazarenemedialibrary.org) has WEF videos in a variety of lengths and languages. Just put “World Evangelism Fund” in the Search window at the bottom of the page.
- **Involve All Ages**—Encourage teens and children to earn money and donate it to the WEF. Ask Prime Timers to take part. Emphasize to all that they pay what they can afford. The intergenerational aspect will encourage participation.
- **Get Sunday School Involved**—Have classes choose a world area to support in prayer. (The world area list is available on the NMI Web site.) Updates on missionaries and events in world areas should be reported regularly. Financial support of the Global Mission enterprise can be encouraged through WEF. Classes could host parties with costumes, food, and decorations of “their” world area. Follow with an informal discussion of missions and WEF support.
- **Involve the Pastor**—Ask the pastor to preach a sermon on “Why Give to Missions?” (This would be appropriate several weeks in advance of an upcoming WEF offering or preparing for faith promise.) If your church has participated in Work & Witness, team members providing a few exciting testimonies as illustrations.



He is risen!
He is risen indeed!



Nazarene World Week Of Prayer

February 28—March 6, 2010

Coordinating with the interdenominational World Day of Prayer, the Nazarene World Week of Prayer (NWWP) is envisioned that this event will reignite prayer flames, deepen commitment to prayer and fasting, and precipitate revival.

Prayer Plan:

- Sunday—Africa
- Monday—Asia-Pacific
- Tuesday—Caribbean
- Wednesday—Eurasia
- Thursday—Mexico, Central America
- Friday—South America
- Saturday—United States, Canada

Prayer requests for each region will be available on the NMI web site prior to NWWP.

Requests will also be available on the Prayer Mobilization Line daily (913-577-2990).

What Can You Do?

- Local presidents are encouraged to copy and distribute requests for the week and to challenge their people to pray.
- Have the church open for prayer throughout the week, allowing people to come in and pray for the regions as time allows or at set times.
- Have a special prayer service in which your church prays for each region, either as individuals, groups, or corporately.

***“Call to Me, and I will
answer you, and show
you great and mighty
things, which you do not
know.”
—Jeremiah 33:3, NKJV***

How to Pray for a Missionary Family

My mother taught me, by example, to pray for Nazarene missionaries... every day! One way to pray for Nazarene missionaries more frequently and specifically is to devote each day of the week to a different aspect of their lives.

- **Sunday**—Their Spiritual Life...that the Lord will grace them with the ability and desire to grow in Christ-likeness through daily devotions and family altar time.
- **Monday**—Their Health...that the Lord, our Healer, will keep them strong in body, mind, and spirit.
- **Tuesday**—Their Culture...that the Lord will help them master the language and make adjustments necessary to the cultural changes they face.
- **Wednesday**—Their Relationships...that the Lord will empower them to love each other, their neighbors, their classmates and friends...other missionaries too! We pray for love and unity!
- **Thursday**—Their Ministry...that the Lord will equip them for specific ministry assignments...for the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon them.
- **Friday**—Spiritual Warfare...for victory over the enemy...for the whole armor of God...for the weapons of warfare.
- **Saturday**—National Revival...that revival will come to the nation.



What would happen if every Nazarene pastor/family partnered with a missionary family in this way? I challenge you to find out.

Dr. Bud Reedy
York, Pennsylvania

Resolve to Make a Difference This Year

Shortly before the end of 2009, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) unveiled a new method for contributing to their many needs and causes. NCM now offers gift cards!

So this year, when birthdays, anniversaries, and graduations roll around, think about a gift that really makes a difference, one that will be remembered. Or buy some for yourself, and use them as sudden needs arise around the world, as we saw with the earthquake in Haiti.

The gift cards can be purchased for as little as US\$5.00 with no expiration date, and they never decrease in value. It's just another way that NCM is making it easier to show love and compassion to those in need.

Jon Livengood
GenNEXT Coordinator

The gift cards can be purchased for as little as US\$5.00 with no expiration date, and they never decrease in value. It's just another way that NCM is making it easier to show love and compassion to those in need.





Trinidad Church Gives Christmas Gifts to Children's Hospital

The Dibe Church of the Nazarene in Trinidad, through a joint effort of NMI and Nazarene Youth International, shared God's love by giving gifts to the children at the Mt. Hope Children's Hospital on Sunday, December 20, 2009. Gifts were also given to children in the Upper Dibe community, along with food hampers to families in need in the area. Thanks to Dibe NMI President Betty-Mae George and Dibe NYI President Kendun Hope and their ministry teams for championing these efforts.

Caribbean Communications Office

NMI Participates in District Leadership Conference

District NMI presidents and other district leaders from the United States and Canada joined the NMI Office team at the District Leadership Conference January 10-13 in Louisville, Kentucky. The event was a partnership between Nazarene Youth International, Sunday School Discipleship Ministries International, Stewardship Ministries, and NMI.

All participants shared in meals and corporate worship, then the respective groups met for training.

NMI leaders heard from leaders in the church on a variety of topics, such as Funding the Mission, World Mission Broadcast, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, and others. Along with the speakers, leaders had the opportunity to learn from each other and plan upcoming regional events.

"I would say this is one of the best conferences I have attended," said Ginny Gilbert, Intermountain District president.

If someone from your district attended, talk to that person, asking what would benefit your church from what that person learned.

Mission Connection Contributor's Guidelines

Mission Connection accepts short articles, drama sketches, display/bulletin board ideas, poems, and reports of activities pertaining to the NMI on the local, district, and general levels. We are in constant need of material. Please direct articles or potential writers to gsawrie@nazarene.org.

- **Articles**—Promotional pieces on NMI ministries.
- **Photographs**—Clear color photos preferred. We need high-resolution digital photos (preferably 300 pixels per inch) or low-resolution large photos (no less than 126 pixels per inch).
- **Editing**—We will edit all material. The magazine reserves the right to accept or reject material.
- **Quotes**—Cite speaker/writer and context in which quote occurred (name of book, article, speaking engagement, etc.)
- **Payment**—*Mission Connection* does not pay its writers. Name recognition will be given, if stated on the submission.

Mission Connection • January 2010

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Our Mission

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