



September 2010

Faith Promise — *The Right Tools for the Mission Tool Box*

by Mark Lail

Editor's Note: This article was originally printed in the March 2010 *(dot)Stewardship* e-newsletter. It is reprinted with permission.

Like many men, I am a collector and user of tools. There is no substitute for the right tool, as I have proven on those times when I have hammered with a shovel and shoveled with a hammer. Well beyond those “make-do” situations, the right tool skillfully at use in the hand of an expert artisan is a thing of beauty.

Eric Sloane says, “Like the nails on a beast’s paws, old tools were so much an extension of a man’s hand or an added appendage to his arm that the resulting workmanship seemed to flow directly from the body of the maker and to carry something of himself into the work.” Sloan obviously hadn’t observed me opening a can of soup with a pocket knife. Thankfully, I have outgrown that stage in life where I thought every problem could be solved with a bigger hammer and a cutting torch. Even though I learned some lessons slowly, the lesson is that there is no substitute for the right tool in the tool box.

In raising money for the World Evangelism Fund, the local church has a full tool box. The new percentage-based plan, Funding the Mission, opens the door to greater flexibility. All the tools common to the old formula, such as Easter and Thanksgiving offerings and Faith Promise are still in the box. Additionally, Nazarene churches connect with the global mission through a variety of creative new methods, such as partnerships, NCM, Mission Corps, Work & Witness, JESUS Film, and a variety of creative Mission Specials.

Some interpret the new tithe-like missional giving goal, 5.5 percent for Nazarene churches across the world, as a “weekly cut” of regular offerings—certainly a tool that some could use, but the variety of tools for raising money for the World Evangelism Fund is far more extensive. The Easter and Thanksgiving offerings and Faith Promise—tools for extending the reach of the local church globally—are a fit with Funding the Mission. Nazarene churches have never been more connected to the global mission of the Church of the Nazarene than they are today.



Connect by subscribing to *Engage*, an electronic publication rich with current stories of how the Lord is making Christlike disciples around the globe. Use the video resources produced by Global Communications during worship experiences. Explore the teaching and promotional resources offered by Stewardship Ministries and made available at no cost on the Media Library. The toolbox is full, and there is a tool that's right for your church.

Explore the many new ways of getting members to connect with the 600+ commissioned and volunteer missionaries. It is possible that the Wednesday night mission service is no longer a tool in your box. If it is still useful, then use it. If not, then explore some the new tools. Why not challenge every member of your church to find five Nazarene missionaries and subscribe to their electronic newsletters, add them as Facebook* friends, or follow their updates on Twitter? These tools will connect Nazarenes in the pew with the global mission they support in our very effective denomination.

There are a lot of tools in the tool box with the new funding plan of the Church of the Nazarene, Funding the Mission. My two-year-old grandson went through a spell when he slept with a 3/8-inch ratchet every night. Although he uses it more like a hammer than a wrench, he does love it. Find a mission tool for your church to love and use it.

Dr. Mark E. Lail has been director of Stewardship Ministries since 2008. Prior to his election as director, he pastored for 22 years in New York and Ohio. He loves to help pastors and church treasurers with the financial tasks of ministry. Dr. Lail created the School of Stewardship to provide practical training in church finances and biblical stewardship. He is a key liaison for the denominational funding plan, Funding the Mission, and serves as a resource to various departments of the Global Ministry Center on matters related to stewardship.

*Please be sensitive about posting content (especially "spamming" with games) on missionaries' Facebook pages and profiles. Certain security risks are a reality for many. Don't be offended if, for these very concerns, a missionary in a sensitive area does not (or cannot) confirm your friendship.





Facing Our Giants

Fellow Mission Partners:

One of the most intriguing and uplifting movies I have ever watched was Facing the Giants, written and directed by Alex Kendrick. It is a story of hope against all odds set on a high school football field. The movie is capable of engaging its audience and leaving its viewers on the edge of their seats—it is a “must-see” for all who have not yet viewed it.

In the spiritual realm, we never know what we are fully made of until we come against something too big to handle. When Moses sent 12 scouts to check out Israel’s new homeland, they all saw the same thing: a land rich in honey and milk...and giants! In other words, they saw themselves as grasshoppers facing giants. However, there were two among them—Joshua and Caleb—who viewed the same situation in a different way. They remarked “do not fear the people of the land. For they are but bread to eat....The Lord is with us” (Numbers 13: 33).

The giants we meet daily will come in different forms. Perhaps one giant will be the arduous task we take on having been elected to a new office or the challenge of engaging our people to give above and beyond the World Evangelism Fund and other Approved Missions Specials. Maybe another giant will be opposition from the NMI Council, church board members, or even a pastor or district superintendent who does not support missions as much as we expect in our local church or on the district. Still another giant could take the form of a chronic illness, a tragic loss, family dissention...the list goes on.

As we come across our giants daily, we should get rid of the “grasshopper mentality.” It will only serve to sink us. God wants us to exercise our faith, rise above the opinions and criticisms of others, and trust Him for the results as He directs and leads us to soar as eagles. We have the power to do it, but do we have the will?

- Let us quit talking about life’s injustices and heed the words of Paul in 2 Timothy 2:3, “endure hardness as a good soldier.”
- Let us quit making excuses and heed Romans 8:37, “we are more than conquerors in Him.”
- Let us quit complaining about what we don’t have and the many changes ahead and heed the word, “God has given us everything we need for life” (2 Peter 1:3).
- Let us daily face our giants and focus on what God wants us to do through Him! (Psalms 27:1-14; Philippians 4:13)

Pressing on!

Jennifer Brown
Global NMI President





How to Extend the Alabaster Offering

The Alabaster Offering always has been one of the most popular offerings in the Netherlands. From the start of the church in this country more than 40 years ago until today, there's a demand for the well-known paper boxes.

Many churches have built their own devices to collect the Alabaster Offering. Small wooden examples of church buildings where peoples can empty their boxes and deposit the collected currency are big favorites.

Younger children especially like the event of Alabaster Offering. They like the noise of the currency falling into the collecting device. When it is Alabaster Sunday, they look for adults without children and ask if they may empty the adults' boxes. You can see the disappointment in their eyes if they are not able to find an available box.

The experience of having no Alabaster box several times in a row sparked Paul's (8 years old) creativity. Most of the supermarkets, grocery stores, bakeries, etc., have small tin cans at their counters. Many people put their change in the cans. In this way, money is raised for a variety of charitable organizations.

Paul went to several shops in his neighborhood and asked the owners to allow him to put Alabaster boxes on their counters. Many agreed, so Paul was able to put approximately 15 Alabaster boxes in a variety of shops.

Before every Alabaster Sunday, Paul went to the shops to collect the filled boxes and brought back the empty ones the following week. Sometimes he was able to make noise with 15 boxes!

Unfortunately the use of currency decreases very fast. More and more plastic cards take over even for spending small amounts. This means less change for the Alabaster boxes. However, for years he was very successful and it's still going on.



Rob Kegel
Eurasia Region
Global Council Representative



Paul was able to put approximately 15 Alabaster boxes in a variety of shops.



Kids Equipping the World

Editor's Note: The following was submitted, citing the plan for the Tennessee District Children's Mission Project. We are forwarding it via *Mission Connection* to help your church plan for such a project as well.

The children of the Tennessee District are joining forces to raise \$6,000 for their 2010-2011 Children's Mission Project. Children's Pastor Greg Nash of the Gallatin Church of the Nazarene is project coordinator and is spearheading the drive to engage children in reaching those who don't know Christ. The project will raise money to send a set of JESUS Film equipment to a country team wishing to reach the lost with God's love.

Below is a recent request received from West Africa concerning urgent need for equipment sets.

Greetings from West Africa! We have just completed leadership and vision meetings for an exciting West Africa Field. To carry on with the vision and church planting, we have need for 18 new sets of equipment in 9 countries spread across 16 districts that are divided into large geographical zones. Out of the 18 sets, there are 6 that are pressing needs. Out of those 6 sets, there are 2 that are most urgent.

In an area that national leaders are referring to as the "Corridor" consisting of Togo, Benin, and Niger, leaders are ready to increase the pace of church planting in Niger but there are problems trying to take the JESUS Film equipment across the border to use there. They need a set that can be used in Niger without having to cross borders. Another need in this area is to an unreached zone of northern Benin and northern Togo. The church is growing rapidly in the "Corridor," and we want to aid these leaders to accomplish their mission.

I am sharing these needs with you, in case you have contact with donors who would like to share in the exciting work in West Africa.

Thanks, and God bless.

In West Africa, people sit in darkness waiting for something unknown—waiting for the light of God's love to illuminate their lives. The people are waiting to hear Jesus speak to them in their native tongue. Around the world, people are waiting, waiting for a JESUS Film team to help them understand how to fill the longing in their souls.



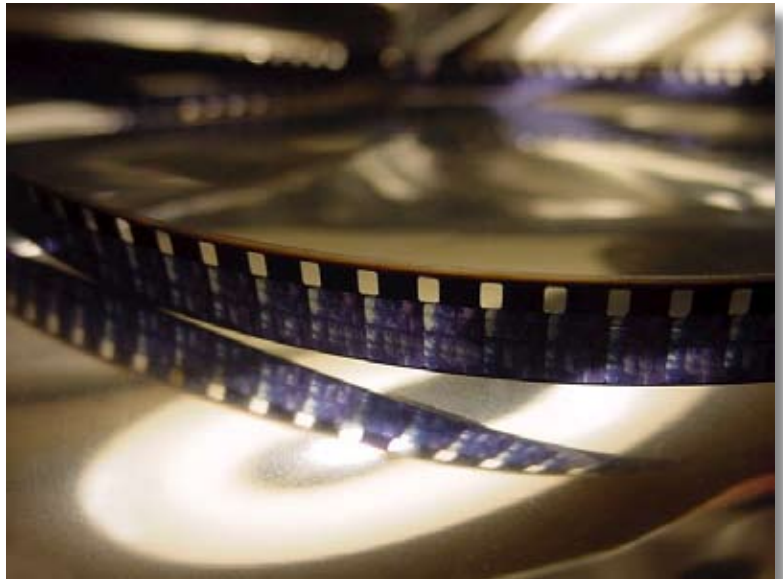
In the next fiscal year (2010-2011), children in churches across the Tennessee District will help light the darkness. They have committed to provide a set of equipment to a JESUS Film team who engages in Kingdom work. Pastor Nash has offered the following suggestions for involving children in this type of project.

POINTERS:

- Run the project for only one or two months. Extending the project longer will result in faded momentum and interest.
- Create a little competition and offer prizes to children.
- Make sure that the children have a thorough understanding of the project.
- Give the children a project explanation card that they can use when asking for donations.
- Encourage the children to seek out neighbors and family members who do not go to church with them, as well as church members, for donations.
- Throw a celebration party for all of the children who participated in the project.

A FEW IDEAS:

- Break your goal down into manageable units that will make it fun and easy to track. Examples:
 - Divide your goal by the number of minutes in the JESUS Film. Then sell minutes of the JESUS Film. A \$500 goal and a 120-minute movie come to \$4.17 per minute. Play up the point of needing to show the entire JESUS Film; we can't leave off the last 10 minutes! Track your progress by stretching out a reel of movie film and ticking off minutes to your goal.
 - Pick a country and determine the distance from your town to there. Divide your goal by the number of miles, and this time sell miles to your destination. Talk about needing to get the JESUS Film to that country...We can't leave it sitting on a ship unable to go any farther. Use a map and a dotted line to track your progress.
- Make sure that you track your progress in a place where the entire church can see it (bulletin board, special display in the church foyer, etc.).
- Have an all-church viewing of the JESUS Film and sell concessions to go towards your goal. You could also do a home movie night where everyone brings a funny home movie to share. Again, sell concessions to raise money. To order a copy of the JESUS Film, go to www.jfhp.org/resources/ministry_tools/jesus-dvds.cfm.
- The children could do various work projects together or individually to raise money toward your goal.
- Special offerings are always great (and appreciated), but we can be more creative than that! We also want to make sure that we are involving our children and thinking about how they can make a difference NOW!



To learn more about the work of JESUS Film Harvest Partners, go to www.JFHP.org.

Diane Robbins

JESUS Film Harvest Partners



Confessions of a Youth Pastor

As a student, summer is a time to sleep in, have fun, earn some extra cash...and did I mention sleep in? But youth pastors are in for a rude awakening when they graduate college/seminary and jump into their first summer working with youth.

Summers, which were once peaceful and serene, are now jam-packed with camps, Vacation Bible School, pool parties, and of course, the teens who drop by your house at two in the afternoon, bored and looking for a bag of Doritos in your pantry.

That is why I am not ashamed to admit that I, a first-year youth pastor, have the end of summer slumps. And for you, passionate mission leader, that means a world of opportunities to jump in and bring mission awareness to the teens in your church.

Youth workers need help! They are slumping right now, trust me! Teens are still "geeked out" (in a good way) from amazing camp speakers and awesome mission trip experiences. Mission leaders, this is your cue to capitalize! Here are some ideas.

- Tell your youth leader that you and the NMI team will plan the next monthly fun youth activity. Find a cool cross-cultural spot in your town, like an Ethiopian restaurant or an ethnic market. Have lunch and send them out on a scavenger hunt, looking for cultural artifacts.
- Volunteer to lead next week's youth group. Lead the group in a round of Poop Deck (google it!). This game never fails to wear-down your most rambunctious teen. Show them a video from the Living Mission DVD and lead discussion from the Discussion Guides for Youth Groups (available at www.livingmission.com).
- Keep it simple. Take a few of the teens out for coffee. Ask them about their summer, what God is teaching them, and how missions fits into the picture.



Your youth workers will thank you!

Shawna Songer Gaines
Chicago, Illinois





Alabaster Giving Is a Building Lifeline

September is one of the two months out of the year when as a denomination, we raise funds through the Alabaster giving program. The funds are only used for one purpose—the building of churches, chapels, homes for missionaries and national leaders, hospitals, schools, and other church-related buildings globally.

Since its inception in 1949, more than \$92 million dollars has been raised. These funds have helped fund more than 8,000 projects; some of these are in countries where the economy of the people would have made it impossible to build a house of worship or a parsonage for the pastor.

Alabaster giving is the lifeline through which the building aspect of our global mission effort is underwritten, resulting in allowing our other lifeline—the World Evangelism Fund—to remain untouched for projects of this nature.

The next Alabaster offering will soon be received. Look for the large Alabaster boxes in the various lobbies of the church.

Ray Hendrix
Olathe, Kansas

The Top 10 Places for Your Alabaster Box

- 10 Living Room or Den—a prominent place, so you and others will see it. When you find money under sofa cushions, put it in the box.
- 9 Laundry Room—to catch money left in pockets.
- 8 Dresser—put in your money at the end of the day.
- 7 Car—to receive coins you find, money from pop cans, or leftover parking meter/ parking garage money.
- 6 Children's bedroom—to teach them about Alabaster giving.
- 5 Desk—when you write to your family and friends, tell them about the blessing of Alabaster. Also when you read Engage magazine, you may be prompted to give to provide for mission buildings globally.
- 4 Dining Room Table or Kitchen Counter—to remind you of your blessings of food, home, and church, where you learn about Jesus.
- 3 Near an NMI Mission Book or Holiness Today Magazine—give as you read about the wonderful buildings constructed and property purchased with Alabaster money.
- 2 Devotional Book—so you can pray every day for the places where the money will be used.
- 1 Near your Bible—so you can reread the story of the woman who anointed Jesus (Matthew 26:6–13).

Queen Ottgen
Mancelona, Michigan



Things That Go Together

Does it ever seem to you that some things were just meant to be together? You can't even imagine one without the other. They just seem to complement each other.

- What would peanut butter be like without jelly?
- Or cheese without crackers?
- Or basketball without the Kentucky Wildcats? (Substitute your favorite sport and team.)
- Or global Nazarene buildings without Alabaster?

In the 60 years of Alabaster, more than 8,000 building projects and parcels of land have been provided. In 2009, there was an average of 5 Alabaster projects per week. Imagine what the Nazarene missions program would be like without Alabaster.

Because of the JESUS Film, the need for Alabaster funds has never been greater. In the last month, the 10 millionth person accepted Christ through the Church of the Nazarene's JESUS Film organization. Think of the number of churches that will be required in which these new Christians will worship!

All money contributed to Alabaster goes toward constructing buildings and purchasing land. None is used for administration.

We will soon receive our Alabaster Offering. How much will you give? Will you do your best? Will you build for the future?

Give generously in the Alabaster Offering.

Lola Brickey

Eastern Kentucky District NMI President





October

Mission Priority One



Are You a Mission Priority One Person?

“*Missio Dei* is a Latin Christian theological term that can be translated as the ‘sending of God.’ Mission is understood as being derived from the very nature of God. The missionary initiative comes from God alone” (Wikipedia).

So it comes to this—are you a Mission Priority One person? If not, why not?

In the Church of the Nazarene, making mission a priority is broken down into four simple activities:



Praying—interceding for the world’s struggles and for what God is doing in the world is a precious responsibility. Do you pray for missions individually, within small groups, and/or during corporate worship?



Discipling—involving new Nazarenes, youth, and children in God’s mission includes instruction and modeling our own personal mission passion. Do you talk to your children about Faith Promise and pray about your commitment in front of them? Do the youth of your church hear you pray for the global church when you are together? Have you explained some of the missions initiatives of your church to people who are new to your faith community?



Giving—investing in the future of the Church of the Nazarene by giving now—both of financial resources and time. Do you view the needs of the world with open hands, willingly spilling out your resources for the cause of the Kingdom? Do you give to the World Evangelism first and foremost?



Educating—instructing those around you about what God is doing in your Jerusalem (your church), your Judea (your community), your Samaria (your world area), and the ends of the earth (God’s world). Do you talk to your family and friends about what you have learned that God is doing through the Church of the Nazarene around the world?

Being a Mission Priority One person does not take a great amount of knowledge. It just requires each of us being aware of God’s movement in the world, praying about it, giving to help, and telling others what we learn.

Mission Priority One Person Display

This display can be displayed in conjunction with the “Mission Priority One Person” article (distributed to your congregation), or it can stand alone.

Items Needed:

- Table
- Figurine of a person praying
- Bird's nest with birds of varied ages in and around it
- Wallet with play money sticking out of it and an alarm clock
- Notebook, pencil, and small globe (about the size of a tennis ball)
- Five signs with each of the following on them:
 - **Are You a Mission Priority One Person?**
 - **Praying**—Interceding for leaders and churches and for the Holy Spirit to draw all people to Christ.
 - **Discipling**—Mentoring and involving all people, including children and youth, to make Christlike disciples in the nations.
 - **Giving**—Devoting ourselves and our resources, including the World Evangelism Fund, to extend Christ's kingdom.
 - **Educating**—Informing people of the world's needs and enabling our church to meet those needs in Christ.
- Several books (extra hymnals are ideal) that can be stacked to allow for a variety of levels in the display.
- Table covering of a size that will drape over and around the books and on which the items and signs will sit.



Instructions:

1. Set table in a location where it will be prominently displayed, but will not be in a place where it could be easily bumped. Keep in mind that people (especially children) might want to touch the display, so either put it in a place that would be hard to reach or make sure there is nothing that can break or that can be swallowed on it.
2. Place three stacks of books (adjust number of books to allow for visibility of items and to make visibly appealing) on the table—one on each of three quarters of the table.
3. Cover books and table with table covering and drape material around and between stacks of books.
4. Hang “Are You a Mission Priority One Person?” sign above table.
5. Place figurine of person praying and the praying sign on the highest stack of books.
6. Set bird's nest, birds, and the discipling sign on another stack of books.
7. Put alarm clock with the wallet propped against it and the giving sign on another stack of books.
8. Place the notebook, pencil, small globe, and the educating sign directly on the table in the front.
9. Look at the display from a variety of angles and adjust as necessary.



Giving and Receiving...

Editor's Note: The following was sent to pastors on the Alaska District last April. We thought all pastors and local NMI presidents could benefit from this message. It has been adapted with that in mind.

Dear NMI Leaders,

Nobody carries the strategy for missions locally or for world like the local pastor and the NMI president. If you don't do it, no one in the church will. The need is great.

With the new formula for the World Evangelism Fund (WEF), Global Mission could lose \$13.5 million. Last year, 60 missionaries were not replaced who left through attrition, retirement, health, or other reasons. If we do not increase WEF giving, there will be a further reduction in missionaries.

The Christian Church is growing faster than any other religion. Last month four of our general superintendents and general superintendents emeriti were in Bangladesh at the same time to ordain nearly 200 new pastors.

Now is not the time to cut back or retrench. This is the time to challenge our people to enter into the blessing of giving and receiving and giving and receiving and giving and receiving. Will you please meet your WEF goal for this month?

For mission stories, go to the new online Global Mission Web magazine, *Engage Magazine* (www.engagemagazine.com). It is full of current stories about missions.

Blair Rorabaugh
Alaska District



‘They Were Thanking Everybody’

In a recent trip to Swaziland, retired missionaries Edna Lochner and Emma Fetters met numerous Nazarenes who expressed thanks for their years of investment in the people of Swaziland. Lochner said their thanks include the entire global church, which sent her as a missionary: it was worldwide church offerings given to World Evangelism Fund (WEF) that supported her ministry in Africa for 38 years.

At worship services and camp meetings, Lochner watched people give generous offerings to WEF in acknowledgement that churches around the world had also given to them through WEF, and they wanted to give back.

“Every penny that we have put into Swaziland—was it for education, medical, church life, for the gospel ... it was not in vain,” she said. “The gratitude and the love that they showed me I knew they were showing it to me as a representative of the general church. They were thanking not just me, they were thanking everybody. They are proud of their church and they’re proud of holiness.”



Editor’s Note: Through the generous giving of Nazarenes to World Evangelism Fund (WEF), many missionaries, including Edna Lochner and Emma Fetters, have served in Swaziland. Local Nazarenes also were raised up and equipped to take leadership in expanding the church, educating children and sharing the hope found in Christ throughout Swaziland. Learn more or give: www.fundingthemission.org.

Engage Magazine

LINKS and WEF Work Together

Want to make missions giving more personal for both your church and better acquaint your church with your LINKS missionaries? Why not ask if your LINKS missionaries would frequently send a WEF testimonial to promote it?

As you prepare for Faith Promise, send a copy of your Faith Promise budget to your LINKS missionaries and ask the missionaries to explain how items in the budget benefit their ministries. If they have a video camera that is compatible with your video format, ask them if they could make the testimonial visual, showing any buildings that might be funded by Alabaster or built by Work & Witness teams, etc.

For those churches not on Faith Promise, the missionaries could send a WEF testimonial to the church before the Thanksgiving and Easter offerings.



Gail L. Sawrie
NMI Editor



Celebrating a Milestone?

The Alamogordo Church of the Nazarene in New Mexico took advantage of the church's centennial a couple of years ago and tied it in with their Faith Promise theme. Such an idea would work for any milestone a church or district might make, as well as the upcoming centennial of NMI.

My wife, Stacy, had the idea. She is my theme provider and designer, and I just help her put it all together. With her as my advisor, our missions are a lot of fun.

Our Saturday Faith Promise event was a 1950's soda shop, and we served hamburgers, hot dogs, fries, floats, mil, and ice cream sundaes. The teens dressed in fifties-style and served.

Our theme was "Every Journey Begins With One Step." We took the chart "The Rise of the Church of the Nazarene" (a link is available at www.nazarene.org, then click on Our Organization > Administration > Archives > Nazarene History). We made signs of all the events, the world areas entered, and the corresponding dates, posting them all the way around our fellowship hall. Each date was represented with a footprint.

We "recreated" the Pilot Point Tent with a brief history of the denomination. You had to go through the tent to enter the soda shop.

Edward Bolt

Alamogordo, New Mexico





Saving WEF Costs Via Electronic Communication

A Thank-you Note from NMI Director Daniel Ketchum

Your NMI office team recently completed the annual budgeting process for fiscal year 2010-11. Because of your willingness to move from print to electronic communication, we are saving nearly \$100,000 in WEF funds per year. That is correct: per year! This cost reduction includes printing, envelopes, and postage costs for *Mission Connection*, *HeartLine*, and other resources.

More: this cost savings does not reflect the current WEF PLUS mailings that we are now able to send electronically and directly to local churches. Print, envelope, and postage costs for six WEF PLUS mailings to 4,800 churches in the USA/Canada Region alone would have totaled at least an additional \$20,000. Now we are able to send this Challenge 2010 information electronically, directly, rapidly, globally, and with significant savings.

Thank you! We are very grateful that you and your teams are moving with us to adopt this more efficient, more rapid, and less costly method of communication. We understand that some of our churches need additional time and training to receive resources by electronic distribution. We will continue to be patient. This is our future.

In some cases where it is not possible to receive electronic communication, we have asked district leadership to serve as liaisons. Some already have plans in place. If such is your situation, please contact your district NMI president to ask for assistance.

Thank you so much for your gracious cooperation and networking. You are practicing strategic, missional leadership. May God bless you and all of us together as we make Christlike disciples in the nations.

Check Those Addresses!

It has come to our attention that a number of mailings to NMI ministries are still going to the old "Paseo" address. While they are forwarded, this will not continue so we wanted to remind you of the mailings and where to send them. If you are not the person responsible for some of these mailings, will you verify that the person(s) who are do have the correct addresses?

If you—or any from your church—have forms with old addresses on them, would you please replace them with new forms available from the NMI Web site?

If you are in doubt as to where something should be mailed, the best place to look would be in the *2009–2013 NMI Handbook and Constitution*.

General NMI Mail, NMI Statistical Report Forms, Deputation Coordinator

Global NMI Office
17001 Prairie Star Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66220

All Money Sent to the Global Treasury Services (for the U.S.A.)

Global Treasury Services
PO Box 843116,
Kansas City, MO 64184-3116

(For monetary gifts and other mailings from world areas other than the U.S.A., please follow the instructions specific to your field and region.)

Spanish NMI Handbook and Constitution Available

The *2009–2013 NMI Handbook and Constitution* and the lyrics and music of the quadrennial theme song have been translated into Spanish and are available for free download on the Spanish resource page of the NMI Web site.

2010 NMI District Convention Resource DVDs May Be Purchased

If you would like to purchase additional copies of the 2010 NMI District Convention Resource DVD, please contact Darryl Bennett at dgbennett@nazarene.org or 913-577-2973. They cost \$1.00 each (that includes shipping).

New 'Funding the Mission' Contribution Tool Is Up and Running

We've recently added a "Make a Contribution" page to the Funding the Mission Web site! You can now both track *and* allocate funds for your church's annual giving goals, all within the Funding the Mission application!

To use the tool, log in at www.fundingthemission.org and select the "Make a Contribution" link in the left-hand toolbar. You will notice several ways to allocate your church's giving. There are fields for WEF giving (both general and campaign specific), Pensions and Benefits (P&B) USA, and numerous Ten Percent Missions Specials. To the right of the contribution itemizer, you will see additional tools that summarize both what has been given in this specific contribution and how much your church needs to contribute to be on track for WEF and P&B giving for 2010.

Although the tool is still being developed and perfected, we have made the most impactful features available immediately. The most common Ten Percent Missions Specials are available for donations, and, in the near future, we plan to make even more Missions Specials available to expand the giving options of your church.

Keep in mind, the giving tool at web.nazarene.org is still available; however, the new online tool at www.fundingthemission.org will help streamline the giving processes of your church by having fewer log-ins to enter and fewer Web pages to navigate. By making the contributions process simpler, your church can focus more of its energies and resources on fulfilling both the local and global mission of the Church of the Nazarene: to make Christlike disciples in the nations.

If you have any questions about the "Make a Contribution" tool, please contact Stewardship Ministries at (800) 544-8413 or via e-mail at stewardship@nazarene.org.

Engage Magazine Request and Announcement

Do you have a question you have always wanted to ask a missionary? *Engage* magazine has a biweekly column by Greg Crofford for just that purpose. Readers can send questions to engagemagazine@nazarene.org. Please include your full name, home town, and country where you live along with your question.

Also, do you "twitter"? Follow Engage magazine on Twitter for:

- instant links to new mission stories
- news flash updates on the latest developments to past stories

Visit www.twitter.com/engagemagazine to sign up!

Bible Podcasts Available Free

There is a daily podcast available through iTunes called Daily Audio Bible. At no charge, you can download a daily Bible reading to your MP3 device or computer and hear the Word being read. Each 15-20-minute reading includes a section from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs, in sequence.

The Daily Audio Bible resource is available in multiple languages—Hindi, Japanese, Spanish, as well as a version for children and one for youth. There are more here: <http://dailyaudiobible.com/Group/Group.aspx?ID=1000043434>. And there are resources such as printable daily reading plans.

In most of the podcasts, the reader invites people to join "the community" around the podcasts, which includes an online prayer room and a phone line where people can call in prayer requests and pray for one another, annual gatherings in different countries of people who listen to the podcasts (such as a men's conference in Wales), and some who are helping to plant a church out of this virtual community. They also are selling a blend of coffee to raise money to help victims of human trafficking, so it is more than just Bible reading.

For people who regularly use iPods, this might be a useful tool for people to get into the Word.

Selected Giving Receipts for July 2010

The Selected Receipts Report for July 2010 is available for your information and is attached. Thank you for your faithful and generous giving.

Mission Connection • September 2010

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Our Mission

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

Church and Donor Gifts to WEF and Mission Specials July 31, 2010

Period 2010/010

Selected Receipts	Current YTD	Previous YTD	Variance YTD	% Var YTD	Previous Fiscal Year Annual	Current YTD Goal	YTD Dollar Variance	% Variance
World Evangelism Fund	38,527,731	39,769,626	(1,241,895)	-3.12%	45,906,503	38,512,342	15,389	0.04%
Mission Specials	22,020,268	18,816,192	3,204,076	17.03%	22,005,165			
Sub-Total	60,547,999	58,585,818	1,962,181	3.35%	67,911,669			
<u>Mission Special Detail</u>								
Alabaster	2,633,122	2,741,366	(108,244)	-3.95%	2,862,280			
Compassionate Min - USA/Canada	433,201	497,003	(63,802)	-12.84%	563,741			
Compassionate Ministries - GM	6,765,358	2,606,966	4,158,393	159.51%	2,922,304			
Child Sponsorship	2,521,747	2,656,590	(134,843)	-5.08%	3,184,380			
Deputation	1,543,003	1,929,063	(386,060)	-20.01%	2,324,073			
Jesus Film	1,919,702	1,983,148	(63,447)	-3.20%	2,404,432			
LINKS	181,443	203,747	(22,304)	-10.95%	256,199			
Missionary Christmas Fund	46,835	54,901	(8,066)	-14.69%	72,440			
Missionary Health Care - Offerings	189,038	115,402	73,635	63.81%	177,667			
Missionary Health Care-Memorial Roll	197,954	205,607	(7,654)	-3.72%	223,225			
Missionary Health Care - DSA	78,172	85,510	(7,338)	-8.58%	104,526			
Work & Witness	1,571,009	1,286,763	284,247	22.09%	1,489,473			
Global Mission Broadcast	335,768	357,342	(21,574)	-6.04%	464,008			
Vacation Bible School	156,623	174,433	(17,811)	-10.21%	309,397			
Other (i.e. Field,Partnerships, etc.)	3,447,294	3,918,352	(471,057)	-12.02%	4,647,022			

Posted as Memo

Work & Witness Non-Cash Travel	1,541,058	1,811,037	(269,979)	1,887,056
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