



## *The Church as Missionary to a “Google World”*

by Gina Grate Pottenger

Büdingen, Germany—Imagine you are a missionary to another country. After meeting the people, you say to them, “Your clothes are so weird. Do you really eat that? It tastes terrible. You call that music? What a lot of noise! Oh, and I just want to tell you how much God loves you!”

That is often how the Church speaks to this present generation, said Leonard Sweet, keynote speaker at the European Nazarene College Leadership Conference, January 17-20. More than 150 people attended the conference, which was themed, “We are Salt: The Church as Incarnational, Relational, and Missional” from Matthew 5:13.

Sweet spent eight one-hour sessions elaborating on the concept of the Church as missionary. Sweet clarified that he was not urging the Church to go from being a Gutenberg church to a Google church. He wants the Church to return to its first love in Jesus, and be a Jesus Church that loves the world in the same self-sacrificial way Jesus did, giving up personal comforts and preferences to go into the culture, but not become of the culture (John 17:11-12).

Sharing Christ with what he calls the “Google World” involves a missionary mindset, because it is essentially a new and different culture from the one that existed before 1973.

He calls the previous generation the “Gutenberg World,” defined by the printing press’s influence on how people think and how they interact with the world. People of the Gutenberg World are individualists who gravitate toward rational, linear, logical thinking, communicating through words.

In contrast, members of the Google World crave experiences that are participatory and interactive. They communicate through images and narrative, and they prioritize relationships. They are compelled and persuaded by personal experiences, not by rational arguments and proofs.

This dramatic shift gives the Church an advantage, because the Gospel can be communicated in creative, image-rich ways through stories, just as Jesus did. Following Christ involves being in a relationship, with growth through experience. Relationships and experience are two things “Googlies” are seeking.

Using numerous videos and interactive visual examples, Sweet described how public education systems in many developed countries—built on Gutenberg principles—ignore differences in learning styles. These treat the education process like a uniform assembly line, treating learners as identical, rather than unique.



***It’s not about  
delivering points.  
It’s about having  
an experience.***

Churches mimic that system in worship format and discipleship, causing them to miss opportunities to present the Gospel and to disciple church members of all generations in the various ways God created them to learn.

Outlining the way the Church needs to relate to the present culture, Sweet said we need to be missional, relational, and incarnational.

"It's not about delivering points. It's about having an experience," he said. "People are hungry for experiences, not rational arguments as to why. The language of this world is images, stories, not words. The church is communicating in words. This is one of the biggest challenges for people in the Holiness Movement."

In spite of this cultural shift in the Church's favor, by and large the Holiness Movement has not realized it is a missionary to the Google World.

"Gutenbergers have said, 'We'll turn it over to you when you become like us.' That's not missional," Sweet said in an interview between sessions. "The church has said, 'Give up your native culture,'" echoing some of the past mistakes of more colonial-style missions.

The good news, he said, is that members of the Gutenberg generation have an opportunity to work side by side with young members of the Google generation in joining Christ's mission to the world. But it will be key for the Gutenbergers to understand that roles have been reversed, Sweet said.

In the past, people in previous generations tended to have greater wisdom and experience, while younger generations possessed idealism and enthusiasm.

Today, it is the opposite, he said, particularly in the church. Googlies have a wisdom and experience in a Google World that Gutenbergers desperately need; and the Gutenbergers are pulsing with the idealism and enthusiasm for God's mission.

"You get three to four generations [together]....That's the way heaven's going to be. Let's start it now. Let's get the generations helping each other and talking to each other in the church."

*"The Church as Missionary to a 'Google World'" was originally published in Engage magazine ([www.engagemagazine.com](http://www.engagemagazine.com)). Excerpts of the article are published with permission.*





## Justice and Righteousness— *Restoring Biblical Harmony*

*“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (Amos 5:24, NIV).*

**Note:** Daniel Ketchum wrote this article to encourage holiness and harmony. In March 2011, *Living Mission* will release this article as an introduction to the 2011 adult mission education. Mission lessons will help to answer the question: “What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (Micah 6:8). Themes for 2010, 2011, and 2012 will be: “To Act Justly,” “To Love Mercy,” and “To Walk Humbly with Your God” respectively.

Some Christian, evangelical, and Nazarene leaders today have become concerned about an increasing interest in social justice and compassionate ministries. Persons concerned about an over-emphasis on justice or an over-emphasis on holiness will recall that in the Bible, holiness and righteousness are closely related to justice. It is helpful to recall the close, biblical relationship of justice to righteousness and holiness in heart and lifestyle.

In the Bible, the words for *justice* and *righteousness* have similar meanings. Old Testament Hebrew words for justice and righteousness are *tzedek* and *mishpat*. They are practically synonymous and are often interchangeable.

New Testament Greek words for justice and righteousness are *dikaio* and *dikaio-sune*. The English *justice* is nearly identical to the Latin *justitia* and the Spanish *justicia*. In Latin and Spanish, the same word can be translated “justice” or “righteousness.”

How might these insights reassure, quiet, and deepen mutual appreciation among persons who take sides or stir tension between justice, righteousness, and holiness? Some persons committed deeply to holiness are threatened by persons concerned about justice or compassion. Some persons concerned deeply about justice or compassion feel alienated from persons deeply committed to holiness. How can we restore harmony?

Justice is the quality, attribute, or characteristic of moral rightness, fairness, equity, and reasonableness. Justice is fidelity to purpose in relationships. Justice is connected closely with God’s holy love and compassion. Antonyms: inequity, wrong, and injustice.

Righteousness is the quality, attribute, or characteristic of being morally right and just. Righteousness is the underlying soul of justice. Synonyms: upright, just, straight, integrity. Antonyms: wrong, unethical, dishonest, dishonorable, and immoral.

Righteousness is right relationship with God and people. God’s righteousness is



Daniel D. Ketchum, Ph.D.  
Global NMI Director

the ethical dimension of His holiness, morally consistent with His own moral covenant. Righteousness is the moral foundation for justice and holiness in heart and life.

Some persons think of justice as something public, and often think of it as punishment that is morally right and fully deserved. When they say, "We want justice", they often mean, "We want our rights." They demand right and fair treatment from other persons, or they expect the legal system to remedy something wrong.

Other persons think of righteousness as a quality or characteristic of an individual. They tend to relegate righteousness to a private sphere.

Justice and righteousness are equally public and private, communal and individual. Justice and righteousness are two similar responses to the same relationship, two similar perspectives of the same issue, and two similar sides of the same heart.

Biblical justice is characterized as: \*

- based on the theology of God's justice
  - related to relational, covenant community issues
- partial to marginalized and lowly persons
- grounded in Old Testament covenant responsibilities
  - motivated by Jesus' proclamation and mission in the New Testament, which is
- worked out in the ethical teachings of Acts and the Epistles
- inspired by Jesus' "upside-down kingdom" values
- drawn from biblical teachings rather than based on perceived cultural needs,
- natural law, or philosophy
- never self-serving, condescending, patronizing, or manipulative
  - most concerned with the value of persons and their place in the community
  - an aspect of the human role as stewards of God's creation
  - a safeguard against reducing the Bible to a manual of personal piety
  - the heart of true religion with personal, active, practical care for persons who are poor, oppressed, widowed, orphaned, helpless, weak, outsiders, and marginalized



Old Testament Hebrew words for justice and righteousness ... are practically synonymous and are often interchangeable.

\* Adapted from Ruth Ann Foster in *Christian Ethics Today*, Issue 24, October 1999 at <http://christianethicstoday.com/cetart/index.cfm?fuseaction=Articles.main&ArtID=491>

[Scripture references about justice and righteousness can be downloaded here.](#)

# Using the Internet for Missions

## Internet resources are easy-to-use and informative

Following are examples of Internet resources that can be used apart from—and in addition to—the *Living Mission* packet or *International Mission Education Journal* (IMEJ) when there is an emphasis on praying for the Nazarene world areas or the persecuted church.

- **Nazarene World Week of Prayer**—February 27–March 5, 2011  
—[www.nazarenemissions.org/10057/story.aspx](http://www.nazarenemissions.org/10057/story.aspx)
- **Praying for the Persecuted Church**—[www.nazarenemissions.org/10013/story.aspx](http://www.nazarenemissions.org/10013/story.aspx)
- **International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church**—Second Sunday in November—  
[www.idop.org](http://www.idop.org)

## 10/40 Window

This area of the world is where many Christians are persecuted for their faith. It is also the least evangelized section of the globe. The following Web site by Dr. Howard Culbertson, missions professor at Southern Nazarene University and former Nazarene missionary: <http://home.snu.edu/~hculbert/1040.htm>. Download maps, or use your projector to inform and inspire people to pray for these troubled areas of our world.



Donnamie Ali  
Caribbean Regional  
Global Council Representative



## Receive a *Free Copy of Living Mission—Act Justly*

This month you can involve your youth in an interactive mission education experience and enter to receive a **free** copy of 2011-2012 *Living Mission—Act Justly*.

NMI is giving local leaders, like you, a chance to receive a free copy of the new *Living Mission Box*, a value of \$59.99. NMI is looking for the 10 biggest *Living Mission* advocates. For more information, see the Entry Form [HERE](#).

Here are some ideas to involve your youth and boost your chances of receiving *Living Mission free* this year:

- ▶ **Involve your youth group in making a video.** The video could show how your church has used *Living Mission* in the past, interview people who were moved by the content, show how your church became involved in the CAUSE campaigns, or let your youth come up with a fun, imaginative idea for the video. After you film the short video, upload it to YouTube and send it to everyone you know who works in a local church, NMI, NYI, SDMI, college ministries, pastors, anyone!
- ▶ **Help your youth group to host an event** inspired by one of the *Living Mission* lessons, like a day of prayer and fasting for victims of human trafficking (for more information on human trafficking and prayer and fasting ideas, click [HERE](#)). Then write an article about the event and send it into *NCN News* ([ncnnews@nazarene.org](mailto:ncnnews@nazarene.org)), *Holiness Today* ([HolinessToday@nazarene.org](mailto:HolinessToday@nazarene.org)), *Mission Connection* ([gsawrie@nazarene.org](mailto:gsawrie@nazarene.org)), and *Engage* magazine ([engagemagazine@nazarene.org](mailto:engagemagazine@nazarene.org)) with lots of pictures. Have the teens put it on their Facebook pages.
- ▶ **Host a Call-a-thon.** During your mid-week youth group, set up several phones or have the teens bring their cell phones. Give each teen 10 phone numbers (available in your church's copy of the district journal) of local NMI, NYI, SDMI presidents, pastors, youth pastors, or anyone you think might like to know about *Living Mission*. The call script could go something like this:
  - "Hello, (*name*), I am (*name*) from the (*name*) Church of the Nazarene. Last year our church used the new mission curriculum, *Living Mission*. It was all about Forgotten People, like people caught in human trafficking and people in remote tribes like the Poqomchi' of Guatemala. *Living Mission* inspired us to get involved and make mission a lifestyle. If you are interested in learning more about *Living Mission*, I would encourage you to check it out at [www.livingmission.com](http://www.livingmission.com)."



Engage your youth group in mission by partnering with them to become *Living Mission* advocates. If there is one thing teenagers do not have a shortage of, it's creativity. So take the entry form to your youth group, and let the brainstorming begin! What a great opportunity to get your teens involved in mission. I hope you'll take advantage of it!

Shawna Songer Gaines

Chicago, Illinois

## A Praying Church Is a Giving Church

Bob Vinansky of the California Calvary Church in Coal Center, Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh District), has served as church treasurer for 21 years. He noted that the church gives for missions well above the 5.5 percent requested. They want the giving above the World Evangelism Fund (WEF) amount to be used for WEF PLUS as long as the funds are used in the same way as the WEF.

“Our church loves to give for missions; I just write the checks and send them to our Global Ministry Center. We have always given our General Budget and World Evangelism Fund in full, along with all of our other budgets.

“Beyond the 5.5 percent formula, the pastor wants me to send all of our church’s Faith Promise funds to the WEF,” Bob continued. “With a couple of months remaining in our church’s fiscal year, we have given to date \$10,525 for WEF. That is \$3,821 beyond our 5.5 percent goal so far. This includes offerings for WEF PLUS, Alabaster, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, JESUS Film, World Mission Broadcast, and Haiti.”

Without hesitation, Bob pointed out that prayer is the most important strategy in their missions giving. “Our people continue to give to Faith Promise beyond our budget formula because their prayers are powered by faith.”

We appreciate and congratulate Pastor David Watts, NMI President Donna Philips, and Treasurer Bob Vinansky. We thank the Lord for the faithfulness of this church and churches like them around the world. We pray for more churches like California Calvary!



***Our people continue  
to give to Faith  
Promise beyond  
our budget formula  
because their  
prayers are powered  
by faith***

## The Gift of Love

Nichi’s little body was horribly paralyzed. She spent hours every Sunday crawling to and from the little mission church in the African bush, where she had found Jesus.

A parcel of toys arrived from America, and among them was an old rag doll, naked and wobbly, with black dots for eyes. The missionary dressed the doll in a pretty pink dress and gave her to Nichi.

Nichi named her doll Lutando (“Love”). She tied Lutando on her back with bark strips like a real mother. Nichi took Lutando to church, talked to her, slept with her, and prayed for her. Nichi’s life was transformed by her love for Lutando.

The big missionary-offering day came. Christians from far and near gathered, each with his *umbongo* (a present with which to express thanks).

The pastor held up a square of cowhide, indicating that an ox would be given to express his thanks, sending the Gospel to those who had not heard. Women waved feathers, pledging chickens. A determined young man pushed a rebellious goat up to the speaker's stand. Others dragged sacks of peanuts and sweet potatoes, bundles of sugarcane, baskets of eggs, and clusters of fruit around the altar. Then baskets were distributed to gather the remaining gifts.

Nichi untied the strings, slipped Lutando from her back, squeezed her tenderly, and then, with tears standing in her black eyes and a heavenly glow on her little face, she laid her beloved "baby," Lutando, in the missionary basket.

A hush settled over the startled congregation. Strong men and women wept. Perhaps they remembered another day when a loving Parent had not withheld His only Son, but had delivered Him up for us all.

A man stood and suggested that Baby Lutando be redeemed.

"What is the price with which she was bought?" asked one.

"Maybe a shilling, very little price in America," another answered.

"Lutando shall be redeemed," the pastor pronounced, "not for the price with which she was bought in America, but for the price of her worth to Nichi."

Four headmen each gave a cow, a tremendous price to an African. With these four cows, Baby Lutando was redeemed and returned to the arms of a beaming Nichi.

Nichi gave, and God gave. What will you give in the Easter Offering to share that love with others? May your gift please Him who gave His all for us.

Louise Robinson Chapman

Global NMI President Emerita

January/February/March 1975 General Council Tidings (adapted)

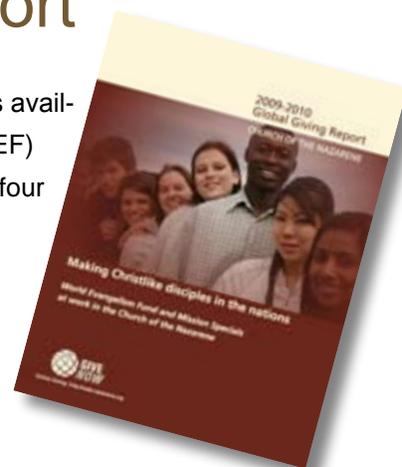
**Editor's Note:** This story may be used to promote the upcoming Easter Offering. Copy and distribute the story on half-sized sheets of paper. [Download it here.](#) You could also have several of your people pantomime the story as it is read aloud.

## 2009-2010 Global Giving Report

The 2009-2010 Global Giving Report for the Church of the Nazarene is available for download. You may view giving to the World Evangelism Fund (WEF) by district, as well as see giving for WEF and mission specials for the past four years. To view the report, click [HERE](#)



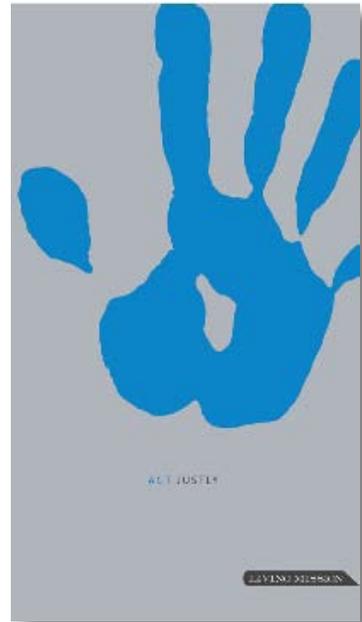
*Umbongo—a  
present with which  
to express thanks*



## 2011-2012 *Living Mission*—Act Justly Available March 2011

The second year of *Living Mission*, NMI's new adult mission education resource, includes several changes you have requested:

- More mission content and stories in print and video.
- More print content, without decreasing amount of video.
- Adequate content for 10 or more monthly lessons.
- Simpler design on handouts (black/white and less ink used when copied).
- Distribution of all lessons at once during convention, rather than in two releases.
- Lesson planner will be easier to read and use: larger print size and more specific guidance for the leader to know what to say and how to use the resources. The planner will have 64, rather than 32, pages.
- Lessons will be story-based, focusing on concrete mission activities of the Church of the Nazarene. Media components will remain and will retain quality, but lessons will not be as dependent on them. Video will be used to enhance and amplify lessons.



Lesson topics and CAUSES (and their purposes or descriptions) will include:

### **Clean Water**

- To help people understand that unsafe drinking water is one of the world's biggest killers
- To engage people with stories of how the Nazarene Global Mission is bringing Christ's love to world areas through the provision of safe drinking water
- To educate people about what they can do to provide clean water to people in various locations around the globe

### **Mission to Women**

- To explain why mission efforts specific to women are necessary
- To learn how Nazarene Global Mission is ministering among women

## Global Melting Pot

- To help people understand that mission—ministry to those in another culture—is a specialized skill requiring not only language school but also special education in the values, behaviors, and traditions of other cultures
- To discuss xenophobia—fear of foreigners and strangers—and to engage people with stories of how xenophobia affects mission and what processes are necessary to combat this problem
- To understand that this is not simply an issue for those from the West; there are many examples of Nazarene missionaries from other parts of the world who must also confront this issue

## Mission to the Disabled

- To help people understand that, because of the lack of government assistance to the disabled in most countries, having a physical handicap is often tantamount or comparable to a slow death sentence due to the many problems that often accompany disabilities
- To learn what Nazarene Global Mission is doing regarding care for the physically challenged around the world
- To engage people with opportunities to assist Nazarene efforts in ministry to the disabled

## Sanctity of Life

- To help people understand that all forms of violence threatens the sanctity of life wherever it occurs, and that ministering to those who have been hurt not only fulfills Christ's command to care for the least of these but also models God's love in Christian witness
- To learn how issues of violence and the sanctity of life intersect with missions in the Church of the Nazarene, providing opportunity to show God's love, and also discover how these issues present obstacles and danger to the mission work and the workers
- To engage people with stories of how Nazarene missions intersects with the issues of violence and to engage them in prayer for the safety of our missionaries as well as support of global efforts to alleviate pain

## Child Labor

- To help people understand that millions of children are being forced to work to maintain subsistence living and that this condition creates physical and developmental hazards
- To learn what Global Mission and Nazarene Missions International are doing specific to the topic of child labor around the globe
- To engage people with stories of how Nazarene mission work intersects with the problem of child labor

**CAUSE—Clean Water**—Nine weeks' worth of activities for your church to help provide clean water in world mission areas.

**CAUSE—JESUS Film**—Nine weeks' worth of activities to help your people understand the ministry of the JESUS Film and to allow for participation in one or more of the many ministries within JESUS Film Harvest Partners.



# *Living Mission—Act Justly* It's Coming, It's Exciting, and It Could Be Free!

Thank you for using *Living Mission—Forgotten People*.

*Living Mission—Act Justly* for 2011-2012 has even more thought-provoking content and user-friendly material that will inform, inspire, and involve your church, mission group, or youth group to live in God's mission for the world!

How would you like to receive your copy of *Living Mission—Act Justly*, a value of \$59.99, **free**? NMI will **give away 10 copies of *Living Mission—Act Justly*** to our 10 biggest *Living Mission* advocates. We need to get the word out about the great stuff in the 2011-2012 *Living Mission* to other local leaders in your area. No one can do that better than you! Here are some examples of what we're looking for:

- Click on the e-mail group with your fellow lay leaders, pastors, mission presidents, youth workers, etc., and tell them about *Living Mission*.
- Let your Facebook friends know you use it and love it.
- Call a few ministry colleagues, ask if they are using *Living Mission*, and tell them how they can obtain it.
- Volunteer at your next district or regional event, hosting a workshop demonstrating to church leaders how you used the curriculum to get the most out of it.
- Tweet about your experience with *Living Mission*.
- Let your blog readers know about it.
- Create a video showing how you use *Living Mission* in your church.
- Find your own creative way to tell the story of how your church/group was moved to action by *Living Mission*.

Fill out the entry form located [HERE](#), and e-mail it to [livingmission@nazarene.org](mailto:livingmission@nazarene.org). Be sure to provide any Web site links, graphics (JPEG format), videos, or other details that show how you are talking-up *Living Mission*. The NMI office will pick the 10 entries that did the best job promoting *Living Mission*. We are looking for both volume (number of people you told about *Living Mission*—so keep track) and creativity.

All entries must be submitted by **April 1, 2011**. We'll let you know if you were selected for a free *2011-2012 Living Mission—Act Justly* by **April 15, 2011**.

Thank you for believing that God's mission draws us out of our comfort zone and into a living adventure. Help us involve more people, small groups, and churches by "living mission."

**FREE IS GOOD!**

# Seeing the World Through Missions Game

To promote reading NMI mission books, we made a gameboard out of the picture of the world, posted it on a bulletin board, and titled it “Seeing the World Through Missions.”

Each continent was numbered 1-6 for the six books. As people checked out books, their names were written on tags and attached to the board with pushpins. Peoples’ tags were moved along the board corresponding to the number of books they had checked out. If you are looking at the diagram, the dots between the numbers don’t matter. People just move their name tag from one number to the next, so there will be a lot of names surrounding the number. Then they jump to the next number to correspond to what number book they are reading. The dots in between just to point the way to the next number and are more for looks.

We had mystery prizes for those who finished in the top three (both for adults and kids); however, anyone who finished all six books by December were recognized at a party thrown in their honor.

The game is great, because everyone could see who was reading the books and who was in the lead. It led to some good-natured competition and involvement. It was a huge success for both the kids and adults alike!

Melody Stevens  
Upland First Church of the Nazarene  
Upland, California



## Memorial Roll Presentation Example

We often receive requests for ideas on how to present Memorial Roll certificates, and we sometimes wonder how much of an explanation of the Missionary Health Care ministry is given to churches.

Since very little information about the person honored is placed on the Memorial Roll certificate, it is easy to forget how much more can be done when making a presentation.

Last June, we received the following from retired missionary Tom Riley. We believe this message is a stellar example of honoring the deceased and explaining the ministry without detracting from either one.

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It is an honor for the King's Men Missionary Chapter of Nashville First Church to add the name of **Rev. Lewis Whetstone** to Nazarene Missions International's Memorial Roll. Even after he retired from faithfully pastoring, he continued to be involved in the work of our Lord Jesus. He attended the **King's Men Missionary Chapter** when his health allowed.

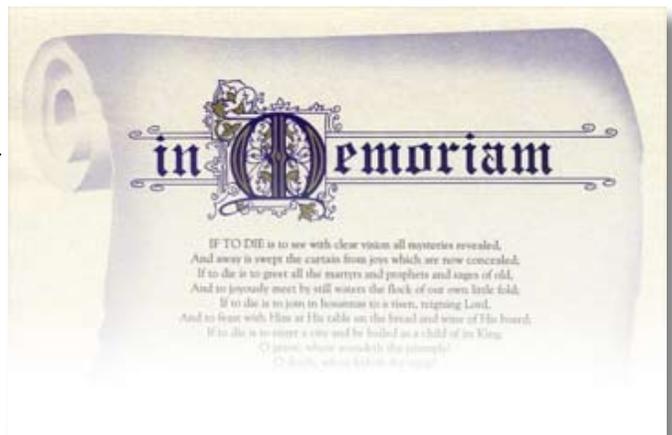
The **Memorial Roll and the Distinguished Service Award** are part of NMI's Missionary Health Care. Funds for this ministry provide health coverage for active and retired Nazarene missionaries and their children. As we all know, health costs can be very high even for one person who is seriously injured or is ill. Try to imagine the cost if you had to fly to another country for treatment or were ill or injured while traveling internationally.

The Church of the Nazarene provides excellent health care for the missionaries, and the World Evangelism Fund must subsidize what does not come in through Missionary Health Care. People from around the world help provide health care for our missionaries. If you would care to honor someone, forms are available on the missions table near the elevator in the lower Missionary Mall. A certificate will be sent to you for you to present to the honoree.

Through this certificate, we remind ourselves, as well as our children and grandchildren, that we hold God's faithful followers like Rev. Lewis Whetstone in high esteem. At the same time, we are caring for our missionaries, allowing them to serve without worrying about the high cost of health care.

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Thank you, Rev. Riley and the King's Men Missionary Chapter, for honoring your colleague through a Memorial Roll for Missionary Health Care.



# It Is Almost May!

May is the month when churches traditionally honor others through Distinguished Service Awards (DSAs) and Memorial Roll (MR) certificates. It won't be long before we are deluged with the orders for both (a great problem to have)! To assure that your church receives its DSAs and MRs in a timely manner, order them soon!

## How to Receive Certificates on Time and in Proper Form

- **Plan ahead (when possible)...way ahead!** Orders start increasing in March and reach a frenzied peak in May. Emergencies happen. However, for those items that are not urgent, the earlier you order, the less stress for all.
- **Order online when you can. [Ordering online](#)**—with a credit card—takes **3-11 business days**. If you order by mail and pay by check, allow **4-6 weeks** for delivery.
- **Double-check all spelling.** Verify the honoree's name, even if it is someone you have known for years.
- **Include all necessary documents if ordering by mail.** These include the completed order form for the certificate(s) you need, a completed remittance form\*, and a check totaling the amount for all certificates ordered.
- **Mail to the proper address.** The address to which you send orders depends on where you live. See page 29 in the *2009–2013 NMI Handbook and Constitution* for the appropriate address.
- **Have your order overnighted.** When you find yourself really pushing a deadline, you may have to pay extra to have your order overnighted. Please verify that the order can be received where and when it will be delivered. For instance, will the location be open, and is weekend delivery a possibility?



\* Church remittance forms—with your church's identification number filled in—are available from your church treasurer. Or you download remittance forms, both for church- and individual-giving, online at [www.nazarene.org](http://www.nazarene.org). Click on the Stewardship tab, then on the "Giving & District Reports" link at the left. When that page comes up, a link labeled "Remittance Forms" will be on the left



## Outreach, Inc., Releases Church Resources for *The Grace Card* Movie

Vista, California—Releasing through Affirm Films and Provident Films in association with Samuel Goldwyn Films, the powerful motion picture [\*The Grace Card\*](#) features Academy Award-winner Louis Gossett Jr. and arrived in theaters across America on February 25. Outreach, Inc., a Southern California-based church marketing and publishing company, offers related companion resources for churches that want to explore and bring to life the concept of grace for their congregations.

Graceworks Pictures and Calvary Pictures, a ministry of Calvary Church of the Nazarene in the Memphis (Tennessee) area, produced *The Grace Card* with a cast of Hollywood Christian professionals and dedicated locals.

*The Grace Card* is a drama that poignantly illustrates the everyday opportunities we have to rebuild relationships and heal deep wounds by extending and receiving God's grace. The movie focuses on the relationship of two police officers whose lives are headed in opposite directions and who are forced to grapple with what it means to both receive and extend grace. Containing thematic elements, such as racial reconciliation, the movie wrestles with a nagging question: How do you extend grace to someone when you don't get along?

That question and many others are tackled in the resources produced by Outreach and developed in partnership with Calvary Church. Interested churches, pastors, or lay leaders are encouraged to learn more about *The Grace Card* resources by visiting [\*The Grace Card\* resource informational page](#) on Outreach.com and also by [viewing the trailer](#).

"*The Grace Card* resources will enable churches to take one of the cornerstones of the Christian faith—the concept of grace—and challenge people to live it out in their daily lives," said Eric Abel, vice president of marketing for Outreach. "Churches will not only be able to help their congregations grasp a deeper understanding of the concept of grace, but also encourage and challenge them to demonstrate grace toward others."

Outreach is releasing various resources to equip churches for *The Grace Card* congregation-wide campaign.

[\*The Grace Card Church Kit\*](#) contains a copy of [\*The Grace Card DVD-Based Study\*](#), [\*The Grace Card Study Guide\*](#), ["Faces of Grace" devotional](#), a resource DVD with clips from the movie, a resource CD with PowerPoint, customizable sermons, other planning tools and sample [church invitational tools](#). The teaching outline for the sermon series includes the following topics:

- Grace Awakening: Giving and receiving grace
- Grace Overflowing: Transform relationships through love and forgiveness
- Grace Lessons: Grow and mature through adversity, discipline, and God's Word
- Grace in Action: Change the world by extending God's grace to others
- *The Grace Card* DVD-based Study contains the following:
  - Resource DVD with clips from the movie
  - Study guide for group participants with weekly lessons, discussion questions, Bible verses, and other insights
  - Leader's guide with instructions for conducting each session

Also, highlighted in the *The Grace Card Church Kit* is the "Faces of Grace" devotional book. Written by the Calvary Church staff, the companion daily devotional includes personal stories, Scriptures, biblical insights, quotes, a journal section, prayers, and perforated grace cards to help the readers receive God's grace and extend it to others.

Founded in 1996, Outreach, Inc. ([www.outreach.com](http://www.outreach.com)) has quickly grown to become the largest provider of church outreach products and services in the world. With a mission to share God's love and empower the church to share the message of Jesus Christ, Outreach provides cost-effective, proven methods and resources in a variety of forms, including books, media and film, postcard invitations, banners, bulletin covers, curriculum, church campaign materials, and more. Outreach is located in North San Diego County and employs more than 120 people.

## Selected Giving Receipts for January 2011

For your information, the Selected Receipts Report for January 2011 is attached at the end of this issue. Thank you for your faithful and generous giving.

# Now

is the time to order Memorial Roll certificates and Distinguished Service Awards if you plan to present them in May.

## Mission Connection • March 2011

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### **Our Mission**

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

## Funding the Mission January 31, 2011

Period 2011/004

					Previous Fiscal	Current YTD	YTD Dollar	
	Current YTD	Previous YTD	Variance YTD	% Var YTD	Year Annual	Goal	Variance	% Variance
World Evangelism Fund	12,823,129	14,530,085	(1,706,956)	-11.75%	44,123,911	14,110,918	(1,287,789)	-9.13%
WEF Plus	1,208,243	-	1,208,243	0.00%	4,008			
Mission Specials	7,466,653	8,608,655	(1,142,002)	-13.27%	25,100,994			
Sub-Total	21,498,025	23,138,740	(1,640,714)	-7.09%	69,228,913			
	-	-	-		-			
Mission Special Detail	-	-	-		-			
Alabaster	1,089,414	1,164,366	(74,952)	-6.44%	2,781,658			
Compassionate Min - USA/Canada	179,493	199,816	(20,323)	-10.17%	491,254			
Compassionate Ministries - GM	1,125,488	2,809,156	(1,683,668)	-59.93%	7,144,672			
Child Sponsorship	1,210,823	976,293	234,530	24.02%	3,048,810			
Deputation	577,329	489,033	88,296	18.06%	1,816,655			
Jesus Film	1,063,035	860,608	202,427	23.52%	2,369,327			
LINKS	105,378	101,781	3,597	3.53%	231,335			
Missionary Christmas Fund	34,483	31,056	3,427	11.04%	61,015			
Missionary Health Care - Offerings	27,260	24,344	2,916	11.98%	204,573			
Missionary Health Care-Memorial Roll	30,576	32,400	(1,824)	-5.63%	211,838			
Missionary Health Care - DSA	21,120	21,732	(612)	-2.82%	90,352			
Work & Witness	518,676	469,224	49,452	10.54%	1,722,868			
World Mission Broadcast	99,850	109,425	(9,575)	-8.75%	437,233			
Vacation Bible School	48,010	51,773	(3,763)	-7.27%	331,826			
Other (i.e. Field,Partnerships, etc.)	1,335,719	1,267,648	68,071	5.37%	4,157,578			
	-	-	-		-			