



Developing an Extraordinary Mission Team—Part Two

Biblical Illustrations of Teams

by Daniel D. Ketchum, Ph.D.

Imagine the amazing potential for NMI leaders to build teams on districts in nations around the world. Not by human might, or human power, but by the Holy Spirit.

The fulfillment of NMI vision to develop extraordinary mission teams is possible if we collaborate and cooperate. As we center on Jesus and the church, as we work in teams interdependently, and as we mentor others who remain faithful, we will impact our churches, communities, districts, and even change our nations.

Someone may well inquire, “How does collaboration and teamwork fit our mission and strategy?” NMI intends to mobilize the church in mission through praying, discipling, giving, and educating. We accomplish this purpose through collaboration and by developing an extraordinary team.

The Bible offers some of the best examples of teams and teamwork, collaboration and interdependence. Jesus received the whole idea of teams and teamwork from his Father and from studying leaders such as Moses, Joshua, Ezra, and Nehemiah. We can learn to lead by studying leaders. In this article, we focus on Moses.

Moses

One of Israel’s most renowned leaders took his seat to serve as judge. The people stood around him from morning until evening: too many people. Chuck Swindoll captured Jethro’s advice for Moses in Exodus 18:17: “Quit acting like you are an independent, self-sufficient, super-capable, all-powerful hotshot!”

Moses listened, learned, and selected capable men from all the people who feared God, who were trustworthy, and who hated dishonest gain. He appointed them to lead teams of ten. Hundreds led, and the needs of hundreds of thousands were met. Moses managed the strain of leadership, and people went home satisfied.



Moses listened, learned, and selected capable men from all the people who feared God, who were trustworthy, and who hated dishonest gain.

Jesus learned another lesson from Moses (Exodus 32:30). Moses had been in the presence of God on Mt. Sinai so long that the people in the valley below grew impatient and fashioned a golden calf idol. When Moses came down, he “saw that the people were running wild and that Aaron had let them get out of control and so become a laughing stock to their enemies” (Exodus 32:25, NIV). Moses stood his ground and called the people back to the Lord. Levites responded: teamwork.

Moses showed us how a leader identifies with his people, his core teams. Moses went back to the Lord and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. But now, please forgive their sin” (Exodus 32:31-32a, NIV).

“But if you will not forgive their sins, then blot me out of the book you have written” (Exodus 32:32b, NIV). This is the solidarity of a leader with his teams even when they let him down. Even when they failed the Father and turned the traitor. Teamwork. Interdependence.

Note: This is the second in a series of 16 articles on “Developing an Extraordinary Mission Team” by Daniel Ketchum. Look for remaining segments in upcoming issues of Mission Connection.

Daniel D. Ketchum, Ph.D., is director of Nazarene Missions International and former missionary to South Asia (Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka), India, the Southeastern Europe (Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Romania, and Slovenia), and the Western Mediterranean (Azores, France, Italy, Madeira Islands, Portugal, and Spain) fields on the Eurasia Region.





Mission Priority

The question is often asked if the Church is still relevant today and what the role is of the Christian in the world. Without a shadow of a doubt we can respond with a resounding, “YES! The Church is still relevant. The role of the Christian is twofold as aptly described by the domestic metaphors illustrated in Matthew 5—“salt of the earth” and “light of the world.” As disciples of Christ, believers must be moral disinfectants in a world where standards are low and decay and rot sets in because of sin. We have to have our priorities right.

How often do we reflect on the mission to which God has called us and the relevance of NMI? Our mission is an ongoing one—to declare Christ to the world and to introduce people to God. So, God saves us then He sends us out. While on earth, Jesus was constantly healing, training, and serving others and demonstrating how to make Christlike disciples (Matthew 28:19). According to Jesus, that’s the only thing worth living for and, if necessary, dying for.

My challenge to you is to ensure that NMI remains alive and relevant in your local church. It must remain on the front burner by mobilizing the efforts of our people through praying, discipling, giving, and educating.

We must support our missionaries on the field and the varied mission outreach of our church by giving 100 percent to World Evangelism Fund and other missions specials. Ensure that your church and district fully participate in NMI’s four objectives so that you can become Mission Priority One churches and World Evangelism Churches of Excellence. Provide as many hands-on mission experiences as possible.

An ancient Chinese proverb says, “Tell me and I will forget. Show me and I will remember. Involve me and I will understand.”

Let’s keep asking ourselves: Is there a better way to mobilize the local church in missions? The answer continues to point to NMI—let’s make it a priority!



Tell me
and I will forget.

Show me
and I will remember.

Involve me
and I will understand.



Jennifer Brown,
Global NMI President



LINKS...Stress Reliever for Missionaries

Although we say it time and time again, it cannot be emphasized enough how precious and valuable are the love letters sent to missionaries. We must remember what a breath of fresh air LINKS is to mission work (for example, remembering to send cards and/or gifts on birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, etc.).

What are some ideas that can help our churches become a part of this delightful ministry?

1. Assign a person to LINKS who can handle and execute the practical side of the ministry.
2. Deliver accurate information regarding the missionary family to the congregation. Mission education time would be a great opportunity for this.
3. Design a beautiful LINKS card with a photo of the missionary family and listing their prayer requests. Encourage members of your church to place the card inside of their Bibles.
4. Request the congregation to pray for the family during their personal prayer time.
5. Think of practical ideas to gather funds for gifts, cards, postage, or cash LINKS (if you do not include it in your Faith Promise budget). In Korea we encourage members to give an offering of \$10 dollars to the LINKS ministry on their own birthday (because every person has a birthday).
6. Keep packages small and light, if sending them, due to expensive postage.
7. Encourage children to write letters to the LINKS missionary family. The joy in receiving letters will be twice as great. How can God forget the lives of those children who write love letters with their cute little hands?

The key to success is to frequently remember this ministry and to encourage people to pray. If we pray in faith and appeal to God, He will certainly let determined devotees come forth. This is a spiritual pillar.



Ran Kim
Asia-Pacific Regional
Global Council Representative



LINKS and You

The Church of the Nazarene sends missionaries all over the world. There are many wonderful things about being a missionary. It is good to do something that God has called you to do. It can be a pleasure to learn about new places and discover a new culture. However, there are many things that are difficult for missionaries. Even though it is fascinating to learn about other cultures, it can be very challenging to adjust to a new setting. Missionaries often spend a great deal of time away from the families and home churches.

Did you know that the Church of the Nazarene has a special program called LINKS? LINKS works to connect missionaries to churches around the world. Did you know that your church has a missionary family for whom they pray and care? There are a lot of ways to take care of your church's LINKS missionary! Find out from your parents or your pastor who your church's LINKS missionary is and if he or she has children.

The most important thing that you can do for your LINKS missionary family is to pray for them. Find some information about the country where they live. What are some challenges that they might face in that country? Your church may also have some prayer requests from them. Many churches like to send cards and small packages to LINKS missionaries. If your church is sending one, it might be nice to include a card in the package or help raise the money to send the package. (It often costs quite a bit of money to send packages.)

There are a lot of other ways to support your LINKS missionary. Can you think of some others?

Nate Owens
Children's Ministries International





LINKS Amazing Race

Our LINKS missionaries are moving to Papua New Guinea (PNG); and to familiarize the congregation with their new culture, we designed an “Amazing Race” night.

All of the stations have to do with certain aspects of PNG (i.e. culture, agriculture, geography, language etc.). We transformed the names of the buildings on our church campus into names of cities and landmarks in PNG. The teams of two started off and received clues on where to go in “PNG,” and they had different tasks to accomplish that had to do with the people of PNG. Once a team completed each task, they received the next clue. We had four stations, and the first team making it back to the capital city (i.e. the sanctuary) after completing all of the tasks, won.

It was a great way to encourage interactive learning about our LINKS missionaries, as well as hosting competition in a fun atmosphere. It can be adapted into any country the LINKS missionaries are from. (You can see old episodes of The Amazing Race online to get more ideas.)



Melody Stevens
Upland, California

Used Literature Needs

Occasionally the NMI Office receives calls or e-mails from churches asking about what they can do with old NMI missions books. Most of the requests for used mission books that we receive are from people on the mission field. Instructions for finding more information on that follow.

The following link will take you to our Unofficial LINKS Used Literature list:
www.nazarenemissions.org/Stories/docs/Involve/LINKS/Used_Literature.pdf.

There are several places around the world that would love to have used NMI missions books/CDs; however, I will warn you that the cost to ship them may be high. You might consider sending only a few at a time, and always e-mail the contact person before you send anything, detailing what books/CDs you have available and asking which ones they could use. This list was developed several months ago, and we don't always know when they receive packages or what they receive.

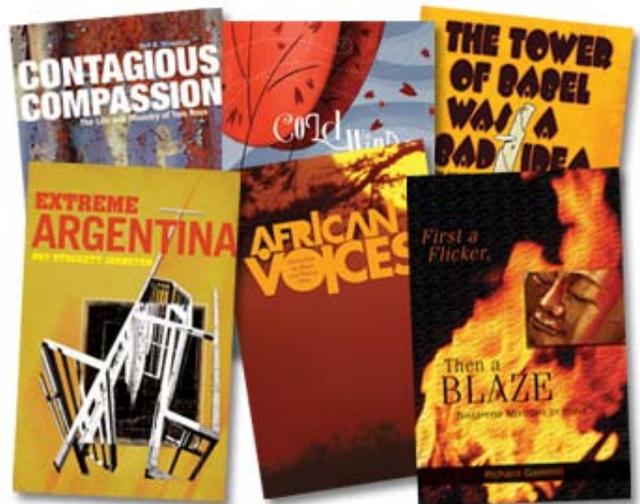
Before you take any packages to the post offices, I suggest you check online what the postal rates would be before you encounter "sticker shock."

1. Go to www.usps.com if you are in the U.S.A. If you are in another country, you will need to adapt the following instructions.
2. Click on "Calculate Postage" at the top of the home page.
3. When that page comes up, click on "Calculate International Postage" (middle of page).
4. Under "Select a Destination," select the destination country from the drop-down list. (Note: It is important that you start at the top with the instructions and ignore the zip code boxes below; this confused several of us in the office when we experimented with it. The zip code boxes will disappear when the country is selected.)
5. After that, fill in the weight of the boxes and click "Continue."
6. There will be three blue bars for international options, please check them all. (The one the page opened to when I was testing this was the most expensive.) to find out how much the postage will be.

If your church does not have funds readily available to mail books/CDs to the field, perhaps a postage fund-raising event might be fun for your congregation or groups within your congregation.

If you want to send the books within your country, I suggest you start by contacting your district NMI president. There may be smaller churches on your district that would be thrilled to have books and CDs that they might otherwise not be able to afford. Asking if there are church plants on your district that have not formed an NMI might also be a way to help them develop a mission passion and start them on the road to embracing their roles in the Great Commission.

Gail L. Sawrie
NMI Editor





Alabaster Birthday Bash—Year 12

In celebration for Alabaster's 50th Anniversary in 1999, the Brockington Road Church of the Nazarene in Sherwood, Arkansas, started a tradition and has proven that old ideas, if done well, are often worth revisiting. That year, the church held an Alabaster Birthday Bash. It was so successful that the church made it an annual event, becoming a highlight of the church year.

The idea behind the Birthday Bash is that 12 tables are decorated each according to a month of the year (see photos of some of the tables on this page). The people in the church who were born in that month sit together (as much as possible) and enjoy a potluck meal, celebrating their "birthdays" and what Alabaster money does globally. The people at each table pool their Alabaster offerings to provide lively and fun competition. Several people are assigned to hurriedly count each month's offering, giving reports as they complete each month (and sometimes having to add last-minute additions to a month's gifts).

For this year's Birthday Bash, Brockington Road began receiving the offering during the church service for the benefit of those who couldn't stay for the potluck (and possibly to allow an early start to those counting the money). Sturdy gift boxes decorated to coordinate with each month's theme lined the altar. After an explanation of Alabaster by an energetic member of the congregation, the people were invited to come to the front and deposit their Alabaster offering in the appropriate month's box in an old-fashioned "march offering."

The photo at the right shows how much came in that Sunday. (That's right, one offering in one day from a church that averages 195 on Sunday mornings!) However, we later heard from Marilyn Cummings, a member of the NMI Council, "As of yesterday, we have received \$5,366.50 in Alabaster Birthday Bash monies. We are delighted to say the least! God is so good! Who would have thought that our twelfth year would be the highest! We have increased each year except one, and it was only about \$80 less, I believe. All for the glory of God!"





October Mission Priority One

Knocking Out Complacency and Ignorance

These two drama sketches may be presented on different occasions to reinforce the importance of missions in peoples' minds, also the purpose of Mission Priority One.

Missions vs. Complacency

Cast:

Announcer—May be onstage or offstage; Announcer must be very expressive to keep up the excitement of the event

Missions—Boxer in white trunks and white shirt; doesn't speak, but should be expressive

Complacency—Boxer in black trunks and black shirt; doesn't speak, but should be expressive

Referee—Wears black and white striped shirt and black pants; doesn't speak, but should be expressive

Sound Effect: Boxing bell (available online)

(The Announcer's script will determine what the fighters and referee do.)

Announcer: Ladies and gentlemen, today we will witness a boxing contest between two long-standing foes. These two mighty boxers have been waiting to meet in the ring again and give a knockout punch. This bout will be just one round without a time limit. The boxers will fight until there is a knockout or one of them surrenders.

(Missions enters dancing around a little, punching air, but not with flair.)

Announcer: In the white corner, wearing white trunks and a white shirt, is Missions. He weighs in at 156 pounds, which represent the number of world areas where he is fighting for the Church of the Nazarene. His arm reach is significant, for it circles the entire globe. His record is outstanding. While there have been some defeats in his historic career in the ring, his success rate is remarkable. He has fought some formidable opponents, yet he is the current champion of the Nazarene world. And Missions has thousands of fans around the world.



(Complacency enters the ring with a ho-hum attitude, acting indifferent, as if he knows he can win this fight with little effort.)

Announcer: In the black corner, wearing black trunks and black shirt, is Complacency. He weighs in at 156 pounds also, as he has had influence in every world area where the Church of the Nazarene works today. His arm reach is just as significant as that of Missions; it goes around the world as well. While Missions has defeated Complacency in many bouts in their long-standing match, Complacency keeps bouncing back in his ring of influence—Nazarene churches worldwide, including *(name of your church or town)*. Complacency has defeated Missions in a number of recent encounters, causing Missions' fans to become disheartened. Giving to Missions has decreased due to Complacency's clout. Today, Complacency will attempt to knock out Missions for good and stop Missions' purpose and objectives. At the same time, Missions is determined to land the knockout punch that will forever end Complacency as a foe.

(Referee enters ring and stands in the middle of the ring.)

Announcer: The referee today is world-renowned—J.C., who has a vested interest in the outcome of this fight. When Complacency heard that J.C. would be the referee, he protested, saying that J.C. would be prejudiced. Complacency only agreed to this set-up when he learned that this bout would be a fight to the finish.

Missions, are you ready for this fight? *(Missions nods an enthusiastic yes, dancing around and punching air.)* Complacency, are you also ready? *(He nods yes, still lackadaisical and arrogant.)* Gentlemen, shake hands and wait in your corners until you hear the bell. Then come out fighting.

(Boxers touch gloves and return to their corners. Referee raises hand and a bell rings, signifying the beginning of the round. The boxers begin to spar.)

Announcer: The fighters are starting out a bit cautious, it appears, obviously trying to determine each other's attack. They know each other's strategies, having had many fights in the past. Now, Complacency is picking up the pace and throwing some quick punches, but Missions is deflecting each one. Missions has often had to deflect the blows of Complacency.

(Pause) Wow! That's a blow to Missions that he did not deflect. Missions appears to be hurt.

(Pause) But, wait, folks, Missions is fighting back. Now, Missions is throwing some punches of his own. Complacency is having trouble deflecting Missions jabs. Now, they are swapping blow-for-blow.

(Pause) Wow! Missions landed a punch that caused Complacency's knees to buckle. Complacency's eyes have glazed over, folks. He acts as if he doesn't know what he is doing. He is walking back to his corner, but Missions is not going after him. Could this be the beginning of the end for Complacency? Could this be a victory for Missions?

(Pause) Wait, look at this, folks, Complacency has come back to the center of the ring. He **is not** surrendering, and he's challenging Missions to continue. This is shaping up to be quite a battle! Complacency has renewed energy. He's attacking Missions with fervor. He wants to put an end to this fight. Complacency is landing some good blows to the body and head. Missions seemingly cannot connect right now.

Missions is beginning to stagger under the barrage of Complacency's blows and is down on his knees. What's happening? This is Complacency's chance to put him away, but Complacency has backed away and is just looking at Missions, as if he is prevented from doing anything. Could Missions be praying? Yes, folks, I think that is it! Missions is praying!

 **Wow!**
Missions
landed a punch
that caused
Complacency's
knees to buckle.

Complacency is stepping back up as if he is ready to fight again. He even looks as if he is taunting Missions. What confidence! Or is it arrogance? Now, Complacency is getting down on his knees too. He's mocking Missions! I can't believe this, folks! This is unprecedented. Complacency has an evil look in his eyes, as if he's ready to put Missions away. But wait....

(Missions gives Complacency a hard jab to the chin, and Complacency falls over, spread out on the floor.)

Announcer: Can you believe that? Missions has just delivered a damaging blow while still on his knees. Here goes the count down. *(Referee begins count while Announcer counts.)* 1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...10. Knock out! *(Characters freeze in place.)*

It's over, folks. Missions has just defeated Complacency one last time. Maybe this will be the end of Complacency's influence in the Church of the Nazarene—especially in the church of the *(name of your church or town)*.

(Characters unfreeze. Ref comes over and raises Missions hand in victory.)

Announcer: Let's celebrate the defeat of Complacency! Let's celebrate this victory for Missions!

As we pray for missions, disciple children, youth, and new Nazarenes about missions, give to the World Evangelism Fund, and learn about missions, we will continue to celebrate Missions' defeat of Complacency and prevent Complacency's return to the ring.

Missions vs. Ignorance

Cast (preferably the same characters as before, except for Ignorance):

Announcer—May be onstage or offstage; Announcer must be very expressive to keep up the excitement of the event

Missions—Boxer in white trunks and white shirt; doesn't speak, but should be expressive

Ignorance—Boxer in black trunks and black shirt; doesn't speak, but should be expressive

Referee—Wears black and white striped shirt and black pants; doesn't speak, but should be expressive

Sound Effect: Boxing bell (available online)

(The Announcer's script will determine what the fighters and referee do.)

Announcer: Ladies and gentlemen, we will now witness another boxing round between two foes that have battled for in the Church of the Nazarene, since 1908 at Pilot Point, Texas. These powerful boxers have been waiting to meet in the ring once again and claim victory. Like the previous bout, this will be just one round with no time limit. The fighters will box until there is a knockout or one of them surrenders.

(Missions enters dancing around a little, punching air, but not with flair.)

Announcer: Again, in the white corner, wearing white trunks and a white shirt, is Missions. His weight has not changed; it's still 156 pounds, which represent the number of world areas where he is fighting for the Church of the Nazarene. It



should be noted that this number did not increase this year, and Missions' foes today attributed to this fact. Let me remind you that Missions' record is outstanding, even while suffering some humiliating defeats in the past. He has fought some menacing and dreaded opponents, such as Complacency and his twin, Apathy. He fought Stinginess and his cousin Penny-pincher. Missions, with his defeat of Complacency earlier this month, is the current champion of the Nazarene world. And Missions continues to have thousands of devoted and enthusiastic global fans, who are committed to his support and his ultimate victory.

(Ignorance enters the ring, acting thickheaded or mentally slow.)

Announcer: In the black corner, wearing black trunks and a black shirt, is a new opponent, Ignorance. He weighs in at 156 pounds also, for just like Complacency, he has a major influence in every world area where the Church of the Nazarene has a presence. While Missions has defeated Ignorance many times, Ignorance shows up again and again, leaving a damaging impact in Nazarene churches worldwide, including *(name of your church or town)*. Ignorance has defeated Missions in recent bouts, causing Missions' fans to become indifferent and prayerless, refusing to disciple others, and failing to give with generosity. In this bout, Ignorance will attempt to take out Missions for good and to stop Missions' endeavors and activities. At the same time, Missions has set his mind to defeat Ignorance and bring to an end to this subtle, but destructive, foe forever.

(Referee enters ring and stands in the middle of the ring.)

Announcer: J.C. is also the referee for this contest. When Ignorance heard who the referee was, he didn't object at all. In fact, he said, "Bring Him on. I'll beat Missions to a pulp, no matter who the ref is. This is my fight to win. I will win!"

Missions, are you ready for this fight? *(Missions nods an enthusiastic yes, dancing around and punching air.)* Ignorance, are you ready? *(He also nods, again acting thickheaded.)* Gentlemen, shake hands and then wait in your corners until you hear the bell. Then come out fighting.

(Boxers touch gloves and return to their corners. Referee raises hand and a bell rings, signifying the beginning of the round. The boxers begin to spar.)

Announcer: This fight is starting out differently, folks. Ignorance is attacking from the get-go. He's attempting to make this a quick fight. Ignorance is landing a flurry of punches that makes Missions appear to be a weakling. In fact, it seems that Missions is no match for Ignorance today. Maybe the bout against Complacency has taken the fight out of him. At any rate, I don't know how long this fight will last. For every blow that Missions successfully deflects, Ignorance connects with a damaging one. It will be a massacre if this keeps up.

Missions has a couple of trainers who are standing by and cheering him on. But their support is not effective at this point. Missions is taking quite a beating. How can he continue to take blow after blow?

Look, folks. What are Missions' trainers doing? They are standing by the ring with their hands up high in the air. Is this some kind of signal to Missions? Or is this some type of hocus-pocus? How is this going to help Missions? Wait, I believe I know what they are doing. They are praying, lifting up their hands as a sign of victory.

Look what is happening now! Missions suddenly has a new burst of strength and energy. He is punching back and landing some solid punches. Now, Ignorance is the one who is reeling. He didn't expect Missions to attack in this fashion.



**Look
what is
happening
now!**

Remember the story in the Book of Exodus when Moses raised his hands in battle, and as long as his hands were raised, the armies of Israel won the battle? This bout reminds me of that biblical story. Now, Ignorance can't do anything to counter-attack his foe. Missions has the upper hand, for sure! Missions is striking with great power and strength. He seems to be omnipotent right now. Ignorance's hands are at his sides; he can't even raise his arms to fight back.

I can't believe this, folks. It appears that Ignorance has given up. Is he going to surrender? This is unprecedented! Ignorance has never given up before. And I believe that Ignorance is crying.

(Ignorance raises his hands in surrender. His body shakes as if he is weeping. Referee pushes back Missions and talks with Ignorance, confirming that he is surrendering, and leads him back to his corner. Ignorance sits down on a stool and puts his head in his gloves, distraught. Missions stands with head bowed. Characters freeze in place.)

Announcer: This is it, folks! The match is over. *(Referee returns to Missions and raises one arm in the air in victory.)* Ignorance has surrendered to mighty Missions, and Missions remains the world champion. Let's celebrate this enormous victory, knowing that Nazarenes around the world and in (name of your church or town) will no longer be hounded by Ignorance.

As we pray for missions, disciple children, youth, and new Nazarenes about missions, give to the World Evangelism Fund, and learn about missions, we will continue to celebrate Missions' defeat of Ignorance and prevent Ignorance's return to the ring.

Wes Eby
Central Florida District NMI President



Welcome, Liz Hollenberg

“Ooh!” said Susan, “I’d thought he was a man. Is he—quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.”

“That you will, dearie, and no mistake,” said Mrs. Beaver, “If there’s anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they’re either braver than most or else silly.”

“Then he isn’t safe?” said Lucy.

“Safe?” said Mr. Beaver. “Don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? ’Course he isn’t safe. But he’s good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

—*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

I think this quote and visualization of who Jesus is captures perfectly who God has been in my life. Thus far, God has taken me to the far-flung corners of His world through growing up as a missionary kid in Africa, Papua New Guinea, and the U.S.A., opportunities to be on short-term mission trips, and serving as a volunteer missionary.

He’s taught me hard lessons about the realities of a broken world and the desperate state mankind is in without Him.

I’ve also been blessed to see His body, the Church, working in those times, and even more blessed to be a part of that work. While studying at Olivet Nazarene University where I majored in Intercultural studies, I assisted in various ministries and even went on short mission trips. As the end of college approached, I started to wonder where God’s adventure would lead me next. He soon led me to the Philippines where I worked for two years through Nazarene Mission Corps, serving at the World Mission Communication Center for the Asia-Pacific Region. I worked with the video department, as well as developing ways to help train others in communications.

When I moved back to the States, God had a new chapter in my adventure. I became involved with my local church youth group, enjoyed living close to family and being able to help them with various projects.

When I wasn’t working with the youth group, I found myself in law enforcement. Service took on a whole different perspective, and life got a bit more “interesting.” When I talk about God being wild and leading us on adventures, I will always think about this period of my life. Being so far out of the church setting and being thrown into situations that you hear about in prayer requests taught me a lot about God’s love, His Grace, and what it means to be Jesus to the world.

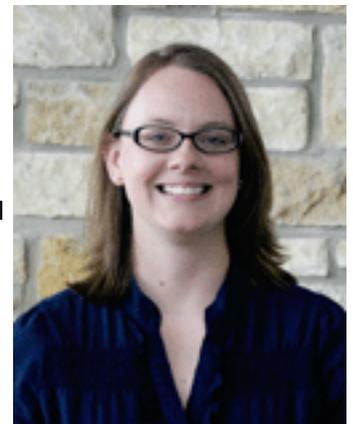
For personal reasons, I decided to step down from my position and found myself once again standing on the side of a cliff looking out at the possibilities and took that leap of faith that God had something special planned. Little did I know how much He had been working!

Less than 30 days later, I found myself showing up for my first day of work at the Global Ministry Center. I’d interviewed, been hired, packed up, and moved over 400 miles away in a little less than a week. Throughout that time, God blew me away with His provision, His love, and His knowledge of exactly what I needed before I had a clue. He truly is a great God!

I am so excited to be a part of the Nazarene Missions International, to be supporting missions and helping connect what is God is doing all over the globe with the local churches. I know my adventure still has many chapters; and I know that, while God is nowhere near tame, I can know with 100 percent certainty that He is GOOD!

—Liz Hollenberg

Note: Liz Hollenberg assists the NMI director, coordinates World Evangelism Fund promotion for the NMI Office, collaborates with entities regarding NMI and Global Mission news, serves as LINKS and Missionary Care coordinator in the Global NMI Office, and coordinates annual NMI statistics and Alabaster reports. You may contact her at lhollenberg@nazarene.org or 913-577-2974. NMI welcomes Liz to the team!



'Harvest 2011' Theme for Thanksgiving Offering

Recently, Stewardship Ministries (SM) and Nazarene Missions International (NMI) announced the name and theme of the 2011 Thanksgiving Offering for the World Evangelism Fund (WEF). "Harvest 2011: Plant. Grow. Thrive." will focus on the importance of "mustard seed" donations: gifts sown in faith and bathed in prayer that grow and spread to cover the earth with Christ's redeeming love.

Harvest 2011 is scheduled for October 9, 2011, in Canada, and November 20, 2011, in the U.S.A. and other world regions. New resources will include a global prayer initiative for the offering, as well as sermon helps and pastoral resources. Resources will be available on the Nazarene Media Library (www.nazarenemedialibrary.org), and NMI and SM will work with district and regional NMI leaders to exchange feedback, share offering details, and distribute resources to the local church.

"This year's goal is to return to our roots and celebrate the incredible prayer and faith that fuel a donation," explains Dr. Mark Lail, director of Stewardship Ministries. "The Nazarene denomination is a network: a vast family of believers that covers the globe. Mustard seed donations to the World Evangelism Fund are what help that family to thrive and support one another in fulfilling our shared mission of making Christlike disciples in the nations."

As always, you can prepare by stocking up on free WEF offering envelopes from NPH by calling (800) 877-0700 or visiting www.nph.com. We'll keep you updated as more Harvest 2011 resources become available.

'NMI Prayer Mobilization Line' Facebook Page Update

Between June 27 and July 26, 2011, the "NMI Prayer Mobilization Line" Facebook Page had:

- 403 monthly active users
- 292 people "liked" this page
- 19,251 visits
- 101 comments and/or "liked" stories on the page
- People who "liked" the page from the United States, Canada, Netherlands, Guatemala, South Africa, Australia, and Spain

Check out the "NMI Prayer Mobilization Line" Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/NMIPrayer.

Hands of Hope Northwest Video Available Online

The following is a video of Hands of Hope Northwest, a compassionate ministries center in Nampa, Idaho. Watch and be inspired by this ministry in the northwest portion of the United States.

www.handsofopenw.org/our-you-tube-video

Hands of Hope Northwest is a faith-based humanitarian and charitable organization that distributes medical supplies and equipment to a needy world. We collect medical supplies and equipment from individuals and medical organizations and make it available to hospitals and clinics in developing countries. We also loan medical equipment for home health-care to needy individuals in our local area.

Living Mission Comments

"I wanted to write a thank you note and compliment NMI on your curriculum called 'Forgotten People.'

"I have been using the material and have found it absolutely what we need.

"Thank you for all those who worked so hard to provide this kind of quality resources."

Rev. Aaron Horton
Salem, Illinois

"I am the adult missions educator for my church.... My local NMI president tells me that there have been complaints about the Living Mission materials. I have only one complaint: I wish more people used the materials and practiced what the materials advocate.

"I think the videos are outstanding. I appreciate that the church is willing to address issues of social justice in such a creative, thought-provoking way....Like it or not, that's where we are today....

"I just want you to know that I appreciate the changes I see coming from the denominational headquarters as exemplified by these materials. Please don't allow anyone to make you back off....We are finally realizing that in order to bring Jesus to the world today, and bring non-believers to Jesus, we have to BE Jesus to the world in which we live, to our neighbors here and everywhere. Thank you!"

Jan LaLone
Wake Forest, North Carolina

'Books in Mission' Reminder

Just a reminder: In an effort to be good stewards of financial resources, Global Mission has closed the "Books In Mission" ministry. Thank you to all who have faithfully promoted and sent books and funds for this international church initiative throughout the years.

'Funding the Mission' Report for June 2011

For your information, the June 2011 "Funding the Mission" report is attached at the end of this issue. Thank you for your faithful and generous giving.

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Daniel D. Ketchum
Global NMI Director

Darryl G. Bennett
Technical Designer

Gail L. Sawrie
Editor

NMI • Church of the Nazarene
17001 Prairie Star Parkway • Lenexa, KS 66220
E-mail: missionconnection@nazarene.org
Web site: www.nazarenemissions.org

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Our Mission

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



