



## We Serve a Big God!

Fellow Mission Partners,

In his book *Living the Good Life*, John Ortberg tells of a friend and himself who spent two weeks preaching in Ethiopia when it was still under Marxist rule. The underground churches there asked if he would bring 50 study Bibles. He had reservations about smuggling bibles but decided to give it a try.

Sure enough, the customs officer opened the suitcases and confiscated the Bibles. A few days later, Ortberg received a call that the head customs official wanted an interview with the leaders of the churches. They feared the worst, as they knew that church leaders in Ethiopia spent a lot of time in prison. In fact, the leaders called prison “the university.” They said among themselves, “This is where God would send His leaders when He really wanted them to grow.” Can you imagine the surprise of Ortberg and his friend when the official told them that the Bibles were illegal, then asked if those who had confiscated the Bibles could keep them? The head official also wanted one for himself! He added the condition that the two men tell no one. That day, Ortberg confessed that his faith in God was greatly enlarged.

As we embark on a new year, let us be reminded that we serve a big God and that we need to step out in faith—launch out in the deep. Prove Him! Like the Apostle Paul, we too can discover that God’s power is at work within us, and He is able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or ever imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Let us prove God this year as we seek to disciple others and educate them about global happenings and needs. Let us prove Him in our praying and, yes, in our giving this year as we support missions, for instance in the upcoming Alabaster offering. By faith we must begin to see more churches being built for discipling the many souls that will come to the Lord. We must envision those people whose lives will be directly or indirectly impacted by the clinics, hospitals, schools, and other facilities that are built for the cause of Christ.

Nazarenes love to give. We can never outgive God. He truly works in a mysterious way. “...The LORD your God...is a great and awesome God” (Deuteronomy 7:21).

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Jennifer Brown  
Global NMI President