



World Evangelism Fund: Call to Clarity

By Dr. Verne Ward and Dr. Daniel Ketchum

The World Evangelism Fund (WEF) is still the most effective plan to support missionaries that any denomination could hope to promote. The General Board, the Board of General Superintendents, Global Mission, and NMI agree: the Church of the Nazarene has no plan to move away from a general fund that is very efficient in deployment of missionaries and development of new churches and districts.

This unified message needs to become a priority. All of us in local, district, regional, and global leadership need to learn how to articulate this message in unity and with conviction.

Together, we can and must find a way to involve local churches in solving the following challenges. We [the writers] agree that we need a “local church responsive solution” to this opportunity, not merely a policy from the Global Ministry Center. Here are some of the challenges:

1. The Lord is giving the Church of the Nazarene many open doors for mission, where we need to prepare and send people into specific missionary enterprises.
2. As we develop churches in these new areas, we are quickly allowing local churches to assume the support of the developing church. The Lord continues to give us new opportunities to plant and develop churches.
3. We are utilizing the WEF to send missionaries and develop churches (including evangelism, discipleship, education, leader development, literature, etc.). Our opportunities far surpass the resource of the WEF.
4. God is still calling our people to mission, and they are responding. When we decline to send them because we do not have available funding, they go anyway with another agency. Then, they come back to Nazarene family, friends, and churches to raise their support.
5. Many Nazarene churches are supporting mission efforts other than Nazarene, simply because they do not know that there is more they can do within our own movement.
6. The WEF is the mainstay of a tremendous Nazarene mission effort that is producing much fruit. For example, look at the growth of the church during the past 15 years: 1996—1.2 million members; 2011—2.1 million members; 75.6 percent growth!*
7. Nazarene churches need a way to go beyond the minimum of 5.5 percent WEF giving and to become involved more personally and extensively in mission.
8. Approved Mission Special giving (Ten Percent Credit) is being utilized by local churches to send people who could not otherwise go with their own Church of the Nazarene.
9. People in our churches desire a personal connection with mission and God is calling them to that. Global Mission and its ministries—NMI, Stewardship, Finance, and Advancement and Development—exist to support the calling of the local church into mission.
10. People in our churches respond to “the called ones” with prayer and sacrificial giving.

The WEF system has not changed in essence, but it is stretched as far as it will go. Hundreds of missionaries, administrative employees, developing districts, along with educational institutions that equip leaders, and churches depend on this giving every day. Any diminishing of the WEF will result in further cutbacks, such as those in recent years. It will take 10 years to see the impact that these cuts will have in our mission to make Christlike disciples.

We are responding to the list of challenges by finding ways to send called Nazarenes and by giving the churches a way to do that. We must work more closely with pastors and leaders to assist the local church regarding missions and developing God-given “mission imagination” in local churches. For example, a desire often described as “more personal connection” tells us that local church needs in mission are not being met.

How can we communicate these realities more effectively with our churches? As an NMI leader, you are one of the real keys to communication. Our mission system supported by the WEF is highly effective. It will be better to develop our capacity to increase WEF giving for every called, equipped, and sent missionary...than to implement a system similar to other mission agencies who wish they could motivate people to give like our members give to the WEF.

We are working diligently to understand the work of God in our local churches and how to respond with a mission strategy that makes sense to them. This responsibility belongs to all of us and each of us. We are at a crucial point: all of us need to understand the challenges and to approach them in the same way. We can and must come together around this opportunity with one voice. The voice of Global Mission and NMI should not be an authoritative policy voice, but a clear voice describing the situation, what we are doing to respond, and expressing an eagerness to improve our service to the church.

Dr. Verne Ward is director of Global Mission for the Church of the Nazarene, and Dr. Daniel Ketchum is global NMI director.

*Statistics from Research Services of the Church of the Nazarene

**“The World Evangelism Fund (WEF)
is still the most effective plan to
support missionaries that any
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Developing an Extraordinary Mission Team—Part 14

Taking the Risks

What will it take for an extraordinary mission team to achieve significant outcomes and results? This is one of the most important questions a team can ask. We began by asking the series of questions about the six essential elements of a team. Consider adding a second set of vital signs:

1. **Themes and identity.** Real teams rally around themes and symbols that convey their purpose and identity—logos, banners, T-shirts, photos.
2. **Enthusiasm/energy level.** Real teams work diligently and play enthusiastically. No one has to ask them to put in extra time; they just do it. When you enter their work space, you feel the dynamic difference.
3. **Event-driven histories.** Stories of team vision, attempts, failures, and successes galvanize and propel real team performance.
4. **Personal commitment.** This commitment to one another's growth and success enriches the team's purpose, stretches its performance aspirations, and enhances its approach to work.
5. **Performance results.** These are both the cause and effect of teams that move up the curve. Real teams always outperform groups or individuals acting independently.

What do potential teams need to do to move up a team performance curve? There are no guaranteed steps for building team performance. But there are a variety of common approaches that can help potential teams take the risks necessary to advance.

1. **Establish urgency and direction.** All members need to believe that the purposes of the team are significant and worthwhile. Consider the Nazarene statement of mission in this light: to make Christlike disciples in the nations.
2. **Select members based on skills and potential, not personalities.** Will they invest the time and effort to help potential team members grow? If so, put them on the team.
3. **Prepare well.** Initial impression and first meetings/actions mean a great deal. What leaders and members do is more important than what they say.
4. **Set clear standards of behavior.** Insist on conduct like attendance: no interruptions to take phone calls. Dialogue: no sacred cows. Confidentiality: trust and silence. Analytic approach: facts are friendly. Outcomes: everyone receives and completes assignments. Confrontation: no finger-pointing. Contribution: everyone does real work.
5. **Seize a few immediate tasks and goals.** Make your goals SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-framed. Or make your goals MAPS: Measurable, Achievable, Practical, Simple.
6. **Challenge regularly with fresh information.** Not all of the information exists in the collective experience and knowledge of the members. Expand the envelope.
7. **Spend lots of time together.** The team must give itself time to learn to be a team. Although quantity of time matters, target both quality- and quantity-time.
8. **Reinforce through positive feedback, recognition, and reward.** Commend each team member for specific contributions to the group's objective.

In what ways can your mission leadership team advance toward these qualities of an extraordinary team? How will you begin together?



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

“What will it take for an extraordinary mission team to achieve significant outcomes and results?”

A Timely Prayer

The car came speeding down the street, too fast for our three-year-old boy, Matthew, to move out of its path. He was hit and knocked out of his boots. He survived miraculously with only a few stitches needed in his little forehead. That very week, a wonderful church in Soldotna, Alaska, had written a letter explaining that they would be praying for us as their missionaries during the whole week and that they would especially pray for the safety of our family. We have never forgotten that letter, nor that the Soldotna church had prayed specifically for us by name.

This story is just one of many of how a single church or a person has been led by God to pray. We all know that PRAYING is one of the NMI objectives.

Here are some suggestions for how you can be involved in the life of a missionary, national leader, or volunteer through PRAYER:

1. Choose a person or family. Your LINKS missionaries are excellent choices, as are missionaries who have spoken at your church or leaders you may have learned about through *Living Mission* or reading NMI missions books.
2. Post their photo (if not in a creative access or secure area) on your church bulletin board or on the sanctuary screen.*
3. Announce a special prayer request during corporate worship on Sunday, as well as printing it in the Sunday bulletin to remind the people to pray during the entire week. If the request is for a person who is in a creative access or secure area, do not name that person in the request.
4. Have someone write a letter or e-mail the person to inform them that your church is praying that week, if the person can safely receive such correspondence.
5. Invite that missionary or volunteer to come to your church to speak during their deputation, if possible.



You will have the joy of experiencing how God will bless your faithful prayers.

* **Editor's Note:** While posting photos on a bulletin board or screen is acceptable if the missionaries are not in creative access or secure areas, never post photos or contact information on a Web site.



Carolita Fraley
Northwest U.S.A. Regional
Global Council Representative



We *HAD* an Altar

*“A genuine revival will come only by the fire of God from an open heaven, in answer to some soul or souls who dare to **rebuild the altar** of God and put the wood in order and place upon it a complete sacrifice, and trust God against all odds.”*

—P.F. Bresee

My thoughts drifted back to my childhood in Michigan. My parents were not members of the Nazarene Church but occasionally took us to visit one in Swartz Creek led by my uncle, Rev. Carl Noffsinger. There was a holy presence in the sanctuary as prayer went up from the filled altar. Miracles happened!

My journey led me to several denominations, and I recognized the absence of something—an altar. Platforms and stairs seemed to be the norm. It would be years before I once again saw an altar.

At my first-ever district convention on the West Texas District, I heard John Seaman, then missionary to the Côte d’Ivoire, speak. At the altar, I was consumed with the need to pray for missionary needs in a personal way—by name. My mentor, District NMI President Octavia Fike, was instrumental in guiding my prayer journey. The amazing thing to me was that “crying out” with other mission leaders produced fruit. Solid answers came in response to our cries—visas arrived in the nick of time, belongings were released from customs, physical healing took place.

In Elijah’s day, the altar needed repair because the people had broken it down. It isn’t hard to look around today and find the same problem. We have forgotten about the altar, and it lies in ruin. The Shekinah glory has gone. We have replaced the altar, our meeting place, with a more “modern” look.

What has happened to our need to meet for prayer? I fear that it has been covered with new and better “attractions” designed to entertain. God does not move except in response to the “crying out” to Him from His children.

Seems like a simple fix to me—repairing the altar. Drag it out from the storage room, dust it off, display it prominently, and begin to use it to call on God to return the glory.

Just as the root of a plant is the storehouse for making the plant healthy, so is the prayer meeting to the health of the church. My little “cry-out” group consists of three faithful pray warriors. I would rather meet with them than do anything else on Wednesday night. Why? Because Jesus shows up! I believe one of the great dangers of the Church in this century is to replace the essential need for prayer with “activities.”

Can we, in our day, see the old dry bones of our prayer meetings live again? It will only come when we are so saturated with Him that we become “one” with His Spirit. In 1 Kings 18:30b we read, “...*he repaired the altar of the Lord, which was in ruin.*” When the altar was repaired—God showed up and responded with His consuming fire.

“What other nation is so great as to have their gods near them the way the LORD our God is near us when we pray to Him?”

Deuteronomy 4:7, NIV

Judi Wiegman
Pastor of Intercessory Prayer
Grand Prairie Family Church of the Nazarene, Texas

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Praying Through the Window 9

Praying Through the Window is a worldwide prayer initiative focused on a breakthrough in global terrorism and worldwide religions. 10/40 Window Sunday (the first Sunday in October) is a call to mobilize churches and individual prayer intercessors worldwide to intercede for these 68 nations.

Together as the Body of Christ we can make an impact for the Gospel and break through the spiritual darkness that has oppressed the land and its people for so long. You can make a difference!

Easy Action Steps

- Order copies of the Praying Through The Window 9: Global Terrorism and World Religions, Revised Edition prayer calendar by calling 1-719-522-1040, or by visiting our **online Resource Center**.
- Give copies of the calendar to your church, family, friends, prayer group, and small group. Post one on the wall in the area of your home where you pray. Keep one in your car. Put one in your Bible.
- Pray for the nations featured on each day of the prayer calendar, and “Pray Your Birthday” (pray daily for countries that fall on the date of your birth).
- Remember to celebrate 10/40 Window Missions Sunday every year on the first Sunday in October. Tell your church leaders about this special day of prayer, and encourage their participation.
- Sign up for The *10/40 Window Reporter*, a monthly online magazine that provides information to help you and your church pray strategically for the 10/40 Window, on our **Subscribe** page.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you use current events to “watch and pray” (The Bible, Matthew 26:41; Colossians 4:2). Watch the news on television, read the newspaper and online Web sites for information about the 10/40 Window nations for which you are interceding.
- Consider going on a short- or long-term mission trip to one or several of the 10/40 Window nations. Plan a prayer journey so you can pray on-site and experience the culture, people, and spiritual climate.



Window International Network

www.win1040.com



Deputation

Innovative Ideas for Weekday Deputation Services

We often hear from NMI leaders that hosting a mission speaker during the week is a challenge. We recognize that people's schedules are packed and another service is sometimes hard to squeeze in and often met with low attendance and deputation offerings.

A missionary recently suggested this topic as an idea for an article and thought 20 innovative ideas would be helpful. We asked district NMI presidents what ideas they had seen or had thought of; and, in some case, they asked local leaders. We ended up with four pages of ideas!

Click [here](#) to download the document. Review the ideas, put them into action, adapt them if you wish. We pray that this list will at least give you some ideas to host effective weekday deputation services.

Gail L. Sawrie
NMI Editor

September						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Spare Change

A Monologue for Alabaster

Performance notes:

- Props Needed: Purse, Bible, Alabaster box, several coins (including a nickel), and soda pop cap
- Pronouncing the German word *Liebesopfer*, which means “love offering,” does not need to be “perfect.” Although it looks like a long, confusing word, it can be broken down and pronounced as follows:
 - Liebes (love)—LEE—bus (General Lee rides a bus)
 - Opfer (offering)—OHP—fur (Oprah wears a fur)
 - LEE-bus-ohp-fur
- This monologue works best if memorized, but it can also be projected on the back wall to prompt the actress.
- Take time, maybe 20 or 30 seconds, to hunt for the coins in the sofa. This is a humorous moment, and the audience members will identify with the character. Do not speak when they are laughing; wait for the laughter to subside. The more the audience identifies at the beginning, the more they will be affected at the end.

Scene: Sunday afternoon in a typical living room of any apartment or home.

(Onstage are a sofa [center stage] with a purse, Bible, and Alabaster box on it.)

(Actress enters, stretching and speaking.)

Sunday afternoon—my favorite time of the week! Come home after church, a quick bite to eat, and just relax. Guess that’s why Sunday’s called the day of rest!

(Starts to clear off sofa, picks up the box.) Oh, right. This missions box thing from my new church. Spare change for missions. This is SO much better than my old church—

they had this folder, and you put quarters in it every day in December for a Christmas offering. That was hard. I mean, those quarters really added up fast!

Let’s see—I’m sure I’ve got some change in the bottom of my purse. *(Picks up purse, looks in.)* Good excuse to clean it out—later. *(Sits and drops her purse on the floor in front of the sofa.)*

I could always check the sofa; there’s bound to be some loose change in the cushions. *(Searches.)*

Yup! Found something! A nickel. I know there’s more *(Searches more.)* Let’s see...some pennies. *(Keeps searching.)* What’s that? Maybe a quarter—it feels pretty big....Wait, got it! *(Pulls it out, looks at it, makes a face)* A soda pop cap. Guess that won’t do much good in deepest, darkest Africa unless they take Coke Rewards there. *(Tosses it.)* Probably not.



(Looks at the coins.) Guess I’d better put this money in the box while I’ve still got it. *(Curious)* Wonder where the money goes, anyway? Maybe it’s printed on the box.

(Turns the box over as she reads.) Alabaster—whatever that means. Some pictures of tools for building—something in Spanish—and I guess that’s French—and—oh! *(Happily surprised.)* That’s German! Liebesopfer!

How about that! I recognize that word. *(An aside)* Being an army brat has few advantages, but living abroad as a kid is one of them.

(Starts to settle down, takes off shoes, stretches, lays down, musing as she gets ready to fall asleep.) What an interesting word that is. It sure brings back memories.

(Slowly.) Liebesopfer. Liebes, that means “love” or “because of love.”

Opfer, though. How to translate that? I think it has at least three meanings....Let’s see. Liebesopfer. I guess the simple translation is “love offering.” Hey, that works! *(Proudly.)* “My love offering” for missions.

(Yawns, tries to settle, then...) It also means sacrifice, though...like the sacrifice parents make to put their kids through college or the sacrifices the people of Israel brought to the temple. Those perfect, unblemished lambs that they were required to bring for Passover and the other holidays....

(Sits up.) Perfect? Unblemished? I’m not sure that a handful of change from the depths of the couch is equivalent to “perfect” and “unblemished.”

(Hits herself on the head.) Of course, it is. It’s a missions offering. They don’t expect much in these little boxes, after all. I’m reading WAY too much into this. I’d better get some sleep.

(Lays back down, facing the other direction.) In a way, I guess this is exactly like those Old Testament people. We’re supposed to march up during the service and put our little box things right on the church altar. *(Eyes starting to close.)* I wonder how much change I’ve got in my purse. I don’t want my box to be TOO empty next week...

(Almost asleep, nestles sleepily, then eyes pop open.) Victim! *(Startled.)* That’s the other meaning of Opfer—“Victim.” Liebesopfer, a “victim of love.”

(Sits up, shakes her head to clear the cobwebs.) That’s ridiculous. There’s no such thing as a victim of love! Unless you count a broken heart, and I haven’t had that since my first year of college when that cute guy—what was his name?—asked my roommate out instead of me.

(Scratches head, pondering.) You could say Jesus was a victim of love. He loved us so much that He offered—*(makes a face)* that word again—himself to be a victim of sorts, of the Romans’ brutality and the Jewish authorities’ punishment.

I guess that’s what missions is all about. Going out—or sending people out—to tell others about Jesus’ love, sharing His love, loving others. *(Picks up the box, looks at it without really seeing it.)*

(Almost angry—a defense mechanism, gets up and moves in a small pacing-line or small triangle near the end/side of the sofa.) How am I supposed to do that? *(A vague gesture out over the heads of the audience.)* I don’t even know those people out there in the jungles or the deserts or wherever those alabaster-box missions people are! How could I possibly love them if I don’t even know them?

(Change, softer.) God knows them, though. And He loves them.

(Even softer, sincere.) I love God. His love and grace have saved me from so much.

(Slowly, returning to the center of the stage directly in front of the sofa.) I guess the real question about this... love offering...isn’t how much do I love THEM. It’s...how much do I love Jesus? Am I going to give Him the spare change in my life? Or am I willing—as a love offering, a love sacrifice—to give him something MORE?

(Lights go down as she sits, thinking.)

Sara D. Boepple
Arlington, Texas

Editor’s Note: An announcement of the date for your church’s Alabaster Offering and a challenge to give more than “the spare change in our lives” should follow after the actress has exited and lights have come back up.



October Mission Priority One

Making Mission a Priority Through Families

When Dallas District NMI President Cheryl Adams wrote to the NMI Office asking for ideas about promoting missions in a family setting, little did she know she set off a flurry of ideas. Because each idea applies to at least one of the NMI objectives, we thought they would be appropriate for the Mission Priority One emphasis this month. Each of these ideas should help your congregation be more mission-passionate, giving them a priority in your church families' lives.

Praying

- Subscribe to PML as a family and have each member pray for a praise and/or request. Before praying, look up locations on a map or a globe.
- Subscribe to any of the newsletters at the www.win1040.com site and pray for the requests. They have a newsletter specifically for children called WindowKids. Look for WIN Resources toward the bottom of the home page. All publications are listed there.
- Subscribe to prayer newsletters from the Voice of the Martyr (www.persecution.com) or Open Doors (www.opendoorsusa.org). Both have great prayer resources for praying for the persecuted church.

Discipling

- Encourage families to discuss what they learn from mission education lessons, NMI missions books, mission speakers, etc. By parents telling what they have learned, it shows the importance of missions and learning about missions. By parents listening to what the children and teens have learned, it affirms the younger generation as not just the future of the church, but the present of the church.
- Include children and youth in all discussions about missions, missions offerings, etc.
- Others that would fit under this heading will also be under other objectives.

Giving

- Include all members in Faith Promise participation. Everyone can participate, but they need to understand what the money is used for. Be sure everyone—parents, youth, children—grasp the importance of World Evangelism Fund giving, as well as any other offerings that may be included in the Faith Promise budget. (Churches should distribute the budget prior to the Faith Promise event, so this discussion can take place.)
- Be sure all members can explain—in their own terms—any mission offerings. In fact, having children explain special offerings to the church might help adults understand better and participate.
- All age levels should know that giving to missions doesn't start after they reach a certain age, but that they can help immediately in whatever amount they can give.
- Help all generations know that giving can also include giving their time, talents, and efforts.
- Families can sponsor mission projects that are listed online. A children's ministry wanted to raise money for a children's radio program that will air in Soweto, South Africa. The Africa Region hasn't been able to produce the program due to lack of funds. The kids raised more money than was needed! All this to say, select a missions project through [Global Mission](#), [World Mission Broadcast](#), [Nazarene Compassionate Ministries](#), [JESUS Film Harvest Partners](#), or see the opportunity for donating to provide the *International Mission Education Journal* on the News and Announcements page of this issue. Have the families research the ministries and projects, then give.

Educating

- Have an entire family—or several families—sponsor a Living Mission CAUSE. The ones on Clean Water, Spoken, or Epidemics would all be excellent for members of all ages.
- All members should learn about missions and understand that learning affects their praying, giving, and willingness to go—either short-term or long-term.
- Work & Witness (W&W) participation for all ages. The exuberance of youth on such a team is infectious. Also, children can go on W&W trips and be helpful, although it is best to ask when a trip is being planned if this is something that the W&W Office thinks is acceptable for children. Some multigenerational teams have been formed by families; what precious memories are formed! If your church wants to form such a team, the W&W Office should be informed of that fact from the outset.
- When thinking “hands-on” or even a less-expensive W&W team, think local or district. Churches (especially small ones) can often use some help with painting, working on the grounds, or providing minor repairs. This is an excellent time to teach the younger generation how to do such tasks and let them interact with the adults. It makes them feel special.
- Prepare and serve a meal at a local rescue mission. Maybe even sign up to do this on a monthly basis, especially at times other than holidays (when everyone seems to want to volunteer).
- Visit a local nursing home on a regular basis and offer to lead an activity for the residents.
- Find local organizations, that have shelters for children or families that are victims of domestic violence. Volunteer a couple evenings a month to do crafts, play games, bring a meal or dessert bar, have a movie night, and visit with the residents. (Do your homework ahead of time; there may be policies that will require background checks, etc.)
- Plastic bag sleeping mats for the homeless (see the photo on this page and this instructional link: <http://kanawha.ext.wvu.edu/r/download/63077>). One of our team members did this at her church, and the mats they made will be delivered to an organization that works with the homeless in Kansas City.
- Families can also put together Crisis Care Kits and School Pal-Paks. Everyone helps with the shopping and packing.
- LINKS correspondence can also be done by families. The local LINKS coordinator should encourage families to write group letters, take photos, and maybe purchase very small, light items. Assign months to families and send several families’ items throughout the year.



Ann Baldwin and Gail Sawrie
NMI Team

Canada's Thanksgiving Offering—October 7, 2012

“Generosity Unlimited” is the theme for this year’s Thanksgiving Offering. It is much more than an monetary offering; it is a lifestyle of those who are Christlike disciples! As part of the global Church of the Nazarene, you are also invited to live and share the lifestyle of generosity described in Corinthians 9:6-8, the scriptural base of the theme for this upcoming World Evangelism Fund offering:

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8, NIV

The following items are items you will be receiving soon (if you don’t have them already) to help you effectively explain the World Evangelism Fund and this particular offering.

Sent to your church:

- **Planning Guide**—a step-by-step process to assist the leaders in your church to prepare to effectively inform your church to pray and give
- **Prayer Ignition Themes**—short biblical stories focused on generosity that should direct people in their thoughts and prayers prior to the offering. Families in the congregation should be encouraged to read the passages and discuss them as a group. As parents model generosity, children will be inclined to do the same.

On the Generosity Unlimited Web site (www.nazarene.org/generosity):

- Videos (2)
- Sermon—“Generosity Without Limits”
- Generosity Unlimited Children’s Activity Sheet
- Posters (2)
- Bulletin Inserts (2)
- Bookmarks
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Logos
- [Children’s Quarter Collectors](#) (available through NPH, 1-800-877-0700, www.nph.com)
- [World Evangelism Fund envelopes](#) (available free of charge through NPH, 1-800-877-0700, www.nph.com)



Additional Promotional Ideas

For additional promotional ideas, please see the September, October, and November issues of *Mission Connection*, NMI’s free electronic periodical sent to subscribers’ inboxes by the first of each month.

Clarifying the Thanksgiving Offering

Comment from a Pastor

I don't think I understand the Thanksgiving Offering. It used to serve as one of the ways to "catch up" or get extra money to meet our budget responsibility. Now we are always caught up as we regularly send in our 5.5 percent [of church income]. No need to do a Thanksgiving "Extra" Offering. We get ours paid in full without it.

Daniel Ketchum's Response

First, we sincerely appreciate your commitment to send the weekly or monthly offerings your people give for the World Evangelism Fund (WEF). Our global mission is fully supported by generous pastors and churches like yours to retain and increase our Gospel presence in more than 159 nations.

Second, please remember that the 5.5 percent goal for missions is a "floor," not the "ceiling." "Generosity Unlimited" (this year's theme for the Thanksgiving Offering) means that you can give far more than the minimum. When the goal for missions giving was reduced to 5.5 percent to assist some churches with their local mission needs, many churches decided to sustain their levels of giving at 10 percent or more. God's Word promises blessing for generosity!

Your giving beyond the 5.5 percent goal helps our global Nazarene family to enter new fields and start new works. Your additional giving also helps to equalize giving from other churches who send less than their 5.5 percent goal. God's Word commends this kind of sharing and balancing.

Finally, I pastored three Nazarene churches before deploying to missions. I always encouraged our people to give in Thanksgiving and Easter offerings. Most of them gave systematically through Faith Promise. But these two additional offerings gave everyone an opportunity to pray to review their consistent giving, to pray toward additional and sacrificial giving, and for our churches to give well beyond our WEF goals every year!

Thanks again, brother, for your faithfulness and partnership in leadership and stewardship. We affirm your passion and vision for global mission. Please let us know anytime how we can serve or assist you.

Thanksgiving Offering for United States—November 18, 2012

"Generosity Unlimited" is the theme for this year's Thanksgiving Offering. It is much more than a monetary offering; it is a lifestyle of those who are Christlike disciples! As part of the global Church of the Nazarene, you are also invited to live and share the lifestyle of generosity described in Corinthians 9:6-8, the scriptural base of the theme for this upcoming World Evangelism Fund offering.

For more information, see the article on page 12.



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Global Mission DVD Changes

For more than a decade, the Church of the Nazarene's Global Mission DVD has connected churches on the USA/Canada Region with Nazarene churches around the world.

Traditionally, this resource was mailed to every USA/Canada church three times a year—January, May, and September. However, to be better stewards of financial resources provided by the World Evangelism Fund, primary distribution will soon be facilitated online at www.nazarene.org/stories with an accompanying notification e-newsletter.

The third volume of the 2012 Global Mission DVD will be issued as usual—via mail—at the beginning of September. Because of increased postal rates, the DVD will be packaged differently, but will still feature the familiar design. This last physical copy will also contain several reminders about the subscription changes.

To continue receiving physical copies of the DVD after September, churches must sign up at www.nazarene.org/stories, e-mail stories@nazarene.org, or call 913-577-2927. Churches interested in receiving the notification e-newsletter about new videos posted online may use the same methods to subscribe.

Churches that do not take any action will not receive a DVD or notification e-newsletter after the September 2012 mailing.

Beginning in 2013, the Global Mission DVD will have a new name and look. The product will feature the same content, but the goal is to increase the quantity and quality of videos while protecting funds. Additional information will be distributed through the previously mentioned e-newsletter subscription.

For questions, please e-mail stories@nazarene.org.

Include Children and Youth when Missionaries Speak

Missionaries Joel and Pam Tooley recently concluded their amazing journey with the

12:7 Serve team. They wrote the following words that every pastor and NMI president need to hear.

Before the missionary preached, all of the children were dismissed to attend a special Children's Church. This happens a lot in deputation services. As missionaries, I think we need to help train pastors on this important issue.

I want to encourage you: please ask the pastor to allow the children to stay in the church service. Children need to hear the message of missions. In fact, I'm convinced that one of the best opportunities for people to receive the call of God on their lives is when they are children. Then, let's be sure to share stories of evangelism or stories where God's power was used to transform lives. Always be sensitive to the possibility of giving an opportunity for people to respond to the Holy Spirit.

Our missionaries should pursue opportunities to share their story with children's groups and youth groups. The future of our church is dependent upon young people hearing and receiving the call of God on their lives to serve Him. Missionaries have a powerful, wonderful story to share—and God can use this story to connect with His people.

Introducing the New Asia-Pacific Regional Director

It is with much joy and anticipation that I introduce to you Rev. Mark and Linda Louw as the regional director for Asia-Pacific.

Today [August 9, 2012], I received the word that the election of Mark by the Board of General Superintendents had been ratified by the General Board. I called Mark to notify him and Linda. Mark received the news with joy and shared how the Lord has given him a great anticipation of joining the team in Asia-Pacific.

Mark and his wife, Linda, have four daughters: Kathryn, Kirstin, Johanna, and Alexandra. Kathryn has completed university, and Kirstin and Johanna are still at Trevecca. Alexandra, 10, will be moving to Singapore with her parents.

The Louws are global missionaries in the Church of the Nazarene, living in South Africa since June of 2011. Mark serves as regional education coordinator for the Africa Region and as the field strategy coordinator (field director) for the 18 nations that comprise the West Africa Field.

Prior to their missionary assignment, the Louws served as youth pastors at Chico First Church of the Nazarene (1992–1994) on California's Sacramento District. They later became senior pastors at Gridley Crossroads Community Church of the Nazarene (1994-1999), also on the Sacramento District. Mark, who felt called to missions at 16, was ordained on the district in 1997.

Mark received education from Nazarene Bible College and Manchester University. Linda, a graduate of Point Loma Nazarene University, is a California-credentialed teacher.

Thank you for your prayers as we sought the Lord for this person to serve the region.

Verne Ward III
Nazarene Global Mission Director

NMI Resources Reviewed: Please Forward to a Friend

We recommend several resources that we hope you will make known to your pastor. Most are electronic resources received either via e-mail or on the Internet. Electronic resources are a reality for most organizations today. We understand that not everyone has a computer or feels comfortable obtaining information from the Internet.

The financial savings of not printing and mailing allows us to send more dollars to the field. If you don't use a computer, we hope that you can find someone in your church to help you access the following materials on an ongoing basis.

- **Engage Magazine** is the Global Mission Department's Web-based magazine. This is fast becoming the very best place to receive the latest news, stories, articles, and facts about Nazarene missionaries and the work God has called them to. We encourage you and your pastor to visit www.engagemagazine.com often to stay in touch with God's global work in the Church of the Nazarene.

- **Prayer Mobilization Line (PML)** is NMI's prayer e-mail. There is no better way to be up to date on the latest needs and praise reports than by reading PML. You, your NMI president, and pastor can subscribe at <http://nmi.nazarene.org/pmlsubscribe.html>. PML also has a Facebook page where anyone can post a request and receive encouragement: www.facebook.com/NMIPrayer.
- **Mission Connection** is an electronic magazine packed with ideas from the world over. It is a free monthly electronic publication of NMI and a resource exchange for NMI leaders within the local church. Subscriptions to Mission Connection are free. To subscribe, go to the Nazarene.org Subscription page (nazarene.org/subscriber.html), enter the required information, select "Mission Connection Magazine" in the bottom section, and click the "Save" button.

Here are a few items that continue to be produced in "hard copies":

- **Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) Magazine.** You can subscribe to receive NCM Magazine, which is free of charge, by filling out the card found in the center of the magazine or by going online to subscribe: ncm.org/magazine/subscribe.
- **Global Mission DVD.** Your church should have back issues of the Global Mission DVD, as every church in the USA and Canada has been sent free copies in the past. (For future distribution, see the article on previous page.) On the DVDs, you will find stories that would be great to play before a service, during a Wednesday night meeting, or in small groups.
- **Missionary Prayer Cards.** Missionaries typically distribute prayer cards when speaking at churches. They give faces to go with the names of the missionaries and their families.
- **Living Mission,** NMI's adult mission education resource, is sold through the Nazarene Publishing House (call toll-free: 800-877-0700, or go online at www.nph.com). The purpose of Living Mission is to address global themes that our missionaries, and many of us, face in today's world. All the topics in Living Mission are challenges Nazarene missionaries and mission leaders deal with. We are helping to inform the local church of the issues, teaching them how to pray for missionaries as they minister, and becoming involved to help. This is mission work, and we are all called to it.

'Funding the Mission' Report for July 2012

For your information, the July "Funding the Mission" report is attached at the end of this issue. We are so thankful that God is continuing to bless the Church of the Nazarene through the faithfulness of His people and churches. We continue to steward these resources with utmost concern for mission priorities. Thank you for your faithful and generous giving.

Mission Connection • September 2012

Daniel D. Ketchum **Darryl G. Bennett** **Gail L. Sawrie**
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Our Mission

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



Church of the Nazarene Funding the Mission - Global Report

Fiscal Year 2012, July 31, 2012 (10 Months)

	Current YTD	Prior YTD	Variance YTD	% Var YTD	Prior Fiscal Yr Actual Annual	YTD WEF Forecast	YTD \$ Variance	YTD % Variance
World Evangelism Fund	33,006,945	32,820,126	186,819	0.57%	38,464,179	31,933,863	1,073,082	3.36%
Mission Specials	20,958,855	21,114,192	(155,338)	-0.74%	24,825,716			
Sub-Total	53,965,800	53,934,318	31,482	0.06%	63,289,895			
Mission Special Detail						Annual WEF Forecast	% of Annual Forecast	
Alabaster	2,508,009	2,555,054	(47,045)	-1.84%	2,732,620	37,154,000	88.84%	
Compassionate Ministries - USA/Canada	523,158	920,636	(397,478)	-43.17%	1,021,519			
Compassionate Ministries - Global Mission	3,999,275	3,070,947	928,328	30.23%	3,656,181			
Child Sponsorship	2,742,662	2,790,884	(48,222)	-1.73%	3,352,233			
Deputation	1,690,933	1,673,992	16,941	1.01%	2,118,184			
Jesus Film	2,585,563	2,738,528	(152,965)	-5.59%	3,265,749			
LINKS	196,654	201,994	(5,340)	-2.64%	245,094			
Missionary Christmas Fund	37,489	52,940	(15,451)	-29.19%	64,588			
Missionary Health Care - Offerings	101,859	104,130	(2,271)	-2.18%	120,889			
Missionary Health Care - Memorial Roll	197,614	188,238	9,375	4.98%	205,832			
Missionary Health Care -Service Awards	87,614	88,088	(474)	-0.54%	101,105			
Work and Witness	1,629,046	1,459,415	169,632	11.62%	1,635,822			
World Mission Broadcast	325,009	325,421	(412)	-0.13%	428,946			
Vacation Bible School	81,607	157,833	(76,226)	-48.30%	294,592			
Other (i.e. Field,Partnerships, etc.)	4,252,364	4,786,093	(533,729)	-11.15%	5,582,360			

Together...Fulfilling the Mission
"To Make Christlike Disciples in the Nations"

Thank You for Generations of Giving