JESUS Film Christmas Promotion Taking Place

Christmas is about giving. Imagine you and your family taking some time this Christmas to meet a friend, neighbor, or acquaintance with a festive plate of cookies and a movie that tells the story of Jesus, a gift that has the potential to lead that person and his or her family to a decision to follow Jesus.

We want to help make this Christmas easy for you, your small group, and your church to reach out to others. You can play a key role in giving a DVD to people that has the story in 24 languages. JESUS Film Harvest Partners® (JFHP) announces a special offer from The JESUS Film Project® to help you make this an engaging Christmas.

The JESUS Film Project’s movie, “The Story of Jesus Through the Eyes of Children,” is affordable and easy to purchase and use. Until December 31, 2013, you may purchase 200 DVDs for only $100 plus shipping! Buy the DVDs as a church or have families in the church place a bulk order to put this amazing gift into the hands of the people in your community.

The movie is a one-hour film depicting the life of Jesus through the eyes of one family and a group of children. It connects all age groups and cultures with the realization that salvation is found through knowing Jesus.

Languages on the DVD include: Arabic, Cantonese, English, Farsi (Persian), French, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Mandarin, Nepali, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish (Latin American), Tagalog, Tamil, Thai, Turkish, Urdu, and Vietnamese.

Below is a simple plan that churches have found effective in reaching communities during the Christmas season.

1. Order DVDs from www.ourfamilytoyourfamily.org or call toll-free 1-800-432-1997 to get your copies.
2. Make an announcement.
   • Show the whiteboard video clip during a worship service. This can be downloaded from the Our Family to Your Family Web site.
   • Have DVDs available in a convenient location for pick-up.
   • Encourage people to pick up a DVD to give to a neighbor, along with a Christmas card and a plate of cookies or bag of microwave popcorn.
3. Make reminder announcements each Sunday until Christmas and have DVDs available.
4. Plan a meeting after Christmas in early January to celebrate the outreach together.
   • Have people share their experiences.
   • Rejoice in what God did.
   • Brainstorm ways to follow up with the DVD recipients.
   • Consider future action points.

JESUS Film Harvest Partners® would greatly appreciate your sharing any meaningful stories, videos, and/or written reports from your outreach. In turn, we will share these with our partner organization The JESUS Film Project®. Send such reports to:

JESUS Film Harvest Partners
Attn: Diane Robbins
15055 W 116th Street
Olathe, KS 66220
drobbins@JFHP.org

Gift Ideas:
1. Give stockings to families with the movie and candy inside.
2. DVDs wrapped in beautiful Christmas paper and bows. You can give the DVDs solely or combine them with a Bible, toy, or popcorn bag.
3. Learn how to say “Merry Christmas” in the languages of people you know or would like to get to know. Then write a nice card and take the movie to them, greeting them with “Merry Christmas” in their language.

Event Ideas:
1. Christmas Family Movie Night—Make invitations for families in your church to invite their neighbors to a family movie night. You can provide popcorn and drinks, as well as give the movie to all the families in attendance.
2. Christmas Cookie Decorating Party—A fun and festive way to reach out to your community. Invite families to come for a time of fun for all ages. Provide a bulk of sugar cookies, frosting, and sprinkles. Play Christmas music or the movie, and allow families to decorate a plate of cookies. Have a cookie-decorating contest and a sample table for people to taste the cookies. At the end of the evening, give each family a movie and challenge them to take the movie and a plate of cookies to a neighbor or friend and share Jesus with them.

This is a limited-time offer—just for this Christmas season—but consider getting extra copies for year-round activities, such as giveaways at Vacation Bible School.

Order today online at www.ourfamilytoyourfamily.org, or call toll-free 1-800-432-1997.

Mission Connection December 2013 / January 2014
We Listen to You

From time to time, our constituents write or call and ask about why Mission Connection is delivered as it is—a monthly issue with three months’ worth of emphases. Sometimes NMI leaders want fewer months represented and sometimes they want more.

Some of you may remember when Mission Connection was delivered quarterly. One of the complaints we heard at that time was that too much time elapsed between when the magazine was designed, when leaders received it, and when the actual emphases occurred. It didn’t allow for new information to be inserted at the last minute.

When we went with the electronic version of Mission Connection, we moved from a quarterly plan to a monthly plan with only one month’s emphasis represented. While people loved the immediacy of having the e-magazine because it allowed for late-breaking developments, we learned quickly that only providing that month’s emphasis (or even the next month’s) did not allow for enough planning. We started planning for three months.

To keep the information as fresh as possible, we will continue to emphasize the facets of NMI as the current month, plus the next two months. However, starting with this issue, we will add a box in the News and Announcements section that will show the next three months’ emphases, so creative leaders who want to work ahead on promotional ideas may do so. (Thank you to Miriam Irons who asked a question that prompted us to come up with this new addition.)

Keep in mind that if you have access to the Internet, you may see the Calendar of Emphases with links to past promotional ideas that will be of benefit to you. The link to that page is www.nazarenemissions.org/10146/story.html.

We appreciate your ideas and comments that will help us make Mission Connection more effective for you. If you or someone in your church has ideas for presentations or suggestions for the magazine, please feel free to send them to:

Gail Sawrie
gsawrie@nazarene.org

Remember, the ideas that come from you and people like you are what make Mission Connection distinctive. We rely on you to keep the magazine effective and fresh.

Our Missionary Family Sends Thanks

From Tillie McCroskey

Thank you so much for my Christmas check! I do appreciate it so much; and of course, it comes at a good time—when expenses are heavier. We appreciate all that the Department and our Districts and local Churches do for us the year around—and this surely includes the Holiness Today and Reflecting God.

This has been a heavy heartache since Typhoon Yolanda hit at Tacloban City of Leyte-Samar in the Philippines early this month. A beautiful story about it—Bob and I went there for an opening series of services, then he organized the first Church of the Nazarene there. It’s such a sad situation and such a terrible loss of lives.

I have sent money to some organized groups who are already there and a day ago received a letter from our own Compassionate Ministries, which I will respond to.

We left the field in 1989 and contact with some of our areas is so sparse.

Praying and burdened, but God is good.

Tillie McCroskey
Retired missionary to the Philippines

From Terry and Joan Read

Joan and I express our appreciation for the gift from the NMI Christmas Fund. We are so blessed to be a part of a church that has not forgotten missionary years of service. We are learning that any amount helps, particularly during the Christmas season.

Also, thanks for Holiness Today, Reflecting God, and the Day-by Day journals that I have used since the early 1970’s. I still have all of those, like a day-by-day record while serving in five different countries.

We pray God’s blessings upon your life, family, and ministry today. NMI is so important in the church as you keep the vision before us of reaching that last unreached soul wherever in the world that may be.

Terry and Joan Read
Retired missionaries to Haiti, Brazil, Kenya, and Canada

Coming to Mission Connection This Spring

Following are the three emphases that will follow the ones in this issue:

April—Mission Education
May—Missionary Health Care
June—World Mission Broadcast

Mission Connection December 2013 / January 2014
NOT TODAY DVD Available Now!

Scenic Drive Films announces the Church Exhibition Program of NOT TODAY. Churches can purchase their copy of the DVD, along with church-based curriculum. The feature-length film produced by Friends Media released in theaters nationwide earlier this year and highlights the epidemic of human trafficking in India. For more information about the film, visit www.scenicdrivefilms.com/nottoday.

The Church Exhibition Program Includes:

- NOT TODAY DVD with special features and introduction for churches
- Companion book, Why Not Today?, by lead pastor of Yorba Linda Friends Church,
- Matthew Cork and published by Moody.
- Six-week small group curriculum
- Price: $99 for events of 99 people or fewer; $199 for events with 100 people or more
- Church profits from NOT TODAY go toward building schools for Dalit children

NOT TODAY was produced by Friends Media, an arm of Friends Church of Yorba Linda, California. Cody Longo (Hollywood Heights, Fame, Make It or Break It) plays Caden, a spoiled, Southern California rich kid partying in India. On mean city streets, he’s oblivious to the so-called “untouchables” until a chance encounter with a young girl sold by her impoverished family to find a “better life” draws him into the world of India’s outcast Dalits. Fighting to find her, Caden finds himself and his faith re-energized. Also featured in NOT TODAY: John Schneider (October Baby, Smallville, The Dukes of Hazzard), Shari Rigby (October Baby, The Bold and the Beautiful), Walid Amini (Veep), and Cassie Scerbo (Make It or Break It, Hot in Cleveland).

Scenic Drive Films, formally WingCinema, offers redemptive, values-based, entertaining feature films, enlightening, faith-based documentaries, and compelling short films to churches and other organizations for licensed public showings. One of its primary missions is to premier inspiring films in churches, prior to their release on home video.

October ‘Funding the Mission’ Report Is Available

The “Funding the Mission” Report for October is attached at the end of this document.

“Global Treasury Services has closed the first month of fiscal year 2014, and we are pleased to report that we are only .67 percent below prior year-to-date World Evangelism Fund receipts and ahead of our forecast,” writes General Treasurer Marilyn McCool. “It is a good way to start out the new ministry year, and we are grateful to Nazarenes around the globe who remain faithful to the mission. The Lord is good to His people.”

Standing: Jeanette Littleton, Daniel Ketchum, “Charlie”, Darryl Bennett, Gail Sawrie.
Sitting: Rob North, Ann Baldwin.