

# LIVING MISSION

*Living Mission* (LM), the new adult mission education curriculum, has been released. Some people have already received their boxes. We believe this resource will deepen mission education for the Church of the Nazarene and will appeal to a wide variety of ages, due to the many types of learning opportunities. Rethinking how your church \*does\* mission education may be required. However, if done effectively, your church will enjoy broader awareness of global mission.

## What Is in the Box?

What you receive in the *Living Mission* (LM) box is the first six months of materials. In September, you will receive an additional mailing for the rest of the year that will contain approximately the same amount of material. All additional resources will fit in the original box, so that the entire year's resources may be retained neatly for future use. Variations will take place from one topic to another; however, you **\*will\*** receive three more lessons, three more discussion videos, 1 or 2 CAUSES, plus additional posters, brochures, PowerPoint presentations, audio-casts, and many other items.

In the future, the entire year's curriculum will be available at the time of purchase. However, because the product is evolving, NMI will adapt it to best serve as many churches as possible.



## Multiple Options

*Living Mission* offers a variety of options not seen in previous curricula. In the past if people wanted to use video media in their presentations, they had a list of potential videos that related to the topic (sometimes vaguely) for which they had to search (either in the church or public library), and they might not be successful. We have received requests for audio media to be included for a number of years; it is now included. The advantage is that everything is in one place. You know you will have the video, because it is included in the curriculum.

Mission educators may prefer even more options for the lessons in this curriculum. We have set up the *Living Mission* Facebook Group <[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=104428492923551](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=104428492923551)> to meet that need (more information later in this article). Check the discussion tab on that page for additional ideas from fellow mission educators or to ask questions. And if you do something creative with the information, share the idea with others on that page. Someone else may use your idea as it is, or adapt it to fit their congregation better.

While we cannot meet everyone's needs, we are trying to provide as much information in one or two places as possible. NMI and Nazarene Publishing House appreciate your assistance and suggestions for the future.

## Living Mission Web Site

In addition to all of this, those who purchase LM will be given access to the LM Web site <[www.livingmission.com](http://www.livingmission.com)> (went live March 31, 2010). We include on that site all the materials you received in the box, plus additional ideas for how to use the materials, how to promote them, updates, and additional resources (printable handouts, videos, PowerPoint presentations, etc.) only available to those who own the product. Mission educators should check the site when preparing for a mission event, as new ideas will be added on a regular basis.



## Living Mission Facebook Group

To allow for direct interaction with other educators and to learn from the experience of others, a *Living Mission* Facebook Group <[www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=104428492923551](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=104428492923551)> has been established. The social-networking site is free, and you do not have to be a member of Facebook to view the group page. However, to post questions, comments, and engage in the discussions, you will need only set up a Facebook account (again, free) with an e-mail address and password to use it. There is a discussion page, photos, video trailers, and a tab for special events that relate to *Living Mission*.



## Variety of Settings

Let's face it...Nazarene churches are like the people in them. There are a variety of sizes with an array of preferences of how they worship and how they operate. Mission education takes place in corporate worship and in small groups. We have learned that some churches meet monthly, while others conduct special mission events a few times a year, and still other churches will present a "Mission Moment" weekly or monthly. Following are some ways LM could be used:

- Traditional mission service
- Small group/Bible study-style settings
- Weekend retreats
- Sunday School alternative for a short term—give your teachers a break, or have someone prepared to step in as a substitute when a teacher cannot be in class
- Special all-church events or even outreach opportunities—the CAUSES would be especially good for this option

Churches that have met monthly in the past may continue to do so. They would not present a different topic each month, but would provide more in-depth information in a variety of formats. The ideal plan will be to have one or two months with information from the lessons, following those with a CAUSE that ties directly to those lessons.

## Plans for the Year

Following are a year's worth of plans, using the topics information in the current LM box, plus what is being written for the September mailing. These were labeled "Month \_\_\_\_" because churches start their years in different months.

By examining your church's calendar with your pastor, the two of you might agree that a specific lesson topic would fit best at a certain time of the year (example—the education lessons in the box might fit best when the school year begins).

The lessons for the second portion of the year are being written, so we have not included details for Months 8-12.

## Sample Plan for a Year of Living Mission

### Month 1—From Lesson "Priceless People"

- Use the video Price Tags (12 minutes) and discuss (10 minutes), using questions from the lesson
- Present either the audiocast Indian Restaurant (5 minutes) or tell that story from the planner (approximately 2 minutes) and discuss (10 minutes), using questions from the lesson
- Distribute "What Is Human Trafficking?" and "Facts about Human Trafficking" for people to review and take home (these could be touched on verbally if you have the time)
- TOTAL TIME (using audiocast and without verbally touching on third point)—37 minutes



### Month 2— From Lesson "Priceless People"

- Review previous month's info (5 minutes)
- Present the audiocast Theresa's Story (5 minutes) or tell that story from the planner (approximately 2 minutes) and discuss (10 minutes), using questions from the lesson
- Distribute "Facts about Sex Trafficking," "Why Is There Sexual Slavery?", and discuss the "ASK" section after those (5 minutes)
- Present "How has the Church of the Nazarene Responded?," "Do Something That Matters," and "Conclusion" (approximately 6 minutes)
- Have in-depth prayer time for victims and perpetrators of human trafficking (12 minutes)
- TOTAL TIME (using story—instead of audiocast)—40 minutes

### Month 3—From Lesson "Lighting the Way"

- Use the video Lamp (12 minutes) and discuss (10 minutes), using questions from the lesson
- Present either the audiocast Educating Children, Foundations for Future Leaders (16 minutes) or tell the story from the planner (approximately 7 minutes) and discuss (10 minutes), using questions from the lesson
- Distribute "Education Improves Life" (whole page) and discuss "ASK" (10 minutes)
- TOTAL TIME (using story—instead of audiocast)—49 minutes

#### **Month 4—From Lesson “Lighting the Way”**

- Review previous month’s info (5 minutes)
- Present sections “How Has the Church of the Nazarene Responded?” and “Conclusion” (4 minutes)
- Present “Do Something That Matters,” especially focusing on LEAP and explaining that the next month will be about LEAP, with plans to have an event to promote awareness about LEAP (maybe have a fundraiser); have brainstorming session in small groups about what the church could do, how to make it exciting, whether people outside the church should be involved, and who would be willing to help with the event (20 minutes)
- Have prayer time using prayer requests in the lesson and for upcoming event (10 minutes)
- TOTAL TIME (using story—instead of audiocast)—39 minutes

#### **Month 5—From LEAP CAUSE**

- LEAP CAUSE, using info from the planner and ideas from the congregation (45 minutes)

#### **Month 6—From Lesson “In God’s Image”**

- Use the video Image (10 minutes) and discuss (10 minutes), using questions from the lesson
- Present either the audiocast Forgotten People Around the World and Next Door (23 minutes) or tell the story from the planner (approximately 5 minutes) and discuss (10 minutes), using questions from the lesson
- Distribute “Who Are the Poqomchi’ People?,” “Facts About the Poqomchi’,” and “Why Are the Poqomchi’ Considered ‘Forgotten People?’” and discuss “ASK” (10 minutes)
- Have prayer time using prayer requests in the lesson (5 minutes)
- TOTAL TIME (using story—instead of audiocast)—50 minutes



#### **Month 7—From Forgotten People (Poqomchi’) CAUSE**

- Forgotten People (Poqomchi’) CAUSE, using info from the planner and ideas from the council/congregation (45 minutes)

#### **Month 8—From Lesson About Hunger and Poverty**

#### **Month 9—From Lesson About Evangelism, Focusing on JESUS Film Harvest Partners**

#### **Month 10—From Harvest 120 CAUSE**

- Forgotten People (Poqomchi’) CAUSE, using info from the planner and ideas from the council/congregation (45 minutes)

#### **Month 11—From Lesson About Crisis and Our Response**

#### **Month 12—From Lessons About Hunger and Poverty and/or Crisis and Our Response**

**Note:** These plans were created in a couple of hours with a theoretical group in mind (author was thinking of a Sunday School class ranging in ages from mid-20s to their 80s). Educators know their churches best, as well as the people who attend the meetings/services. We hope you can see opportunities for making LM your own and for involving people of all ages in the planning and presenting of LM.