A Resource Exchange for NMI Leaders

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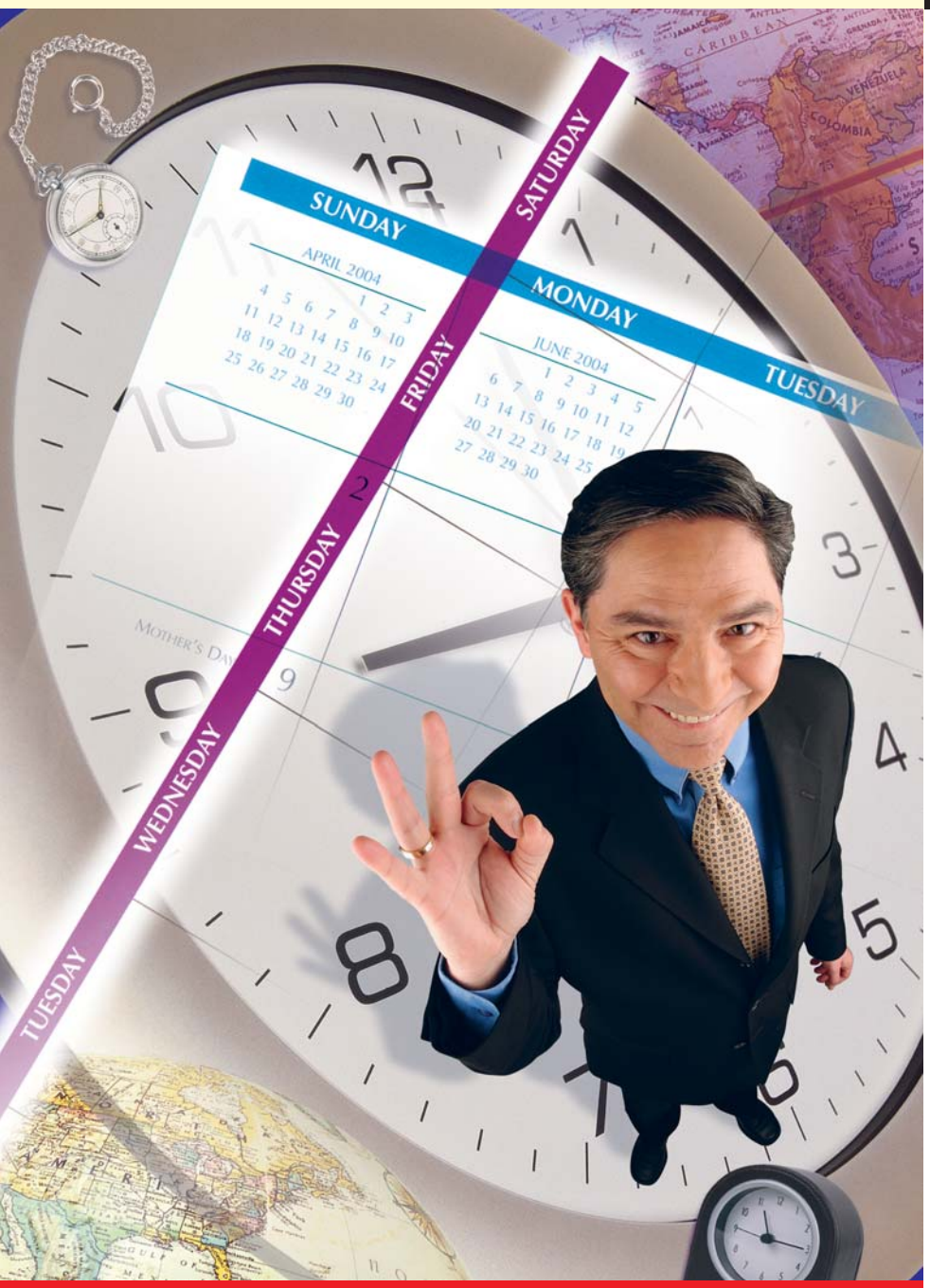
April May June 2004



Snappy Mission Moments

"When do we work in mission education?" is a common question today from local NMI presidents. Then they comment, "We just don't have time to do missions anymore."

Since many churches have changed their Wednesday and Sunday evening service formats, which traditionally have been the times for focusing on missions, presenting mission information has become a challenge. One of the newer methods is "mission moments"; therefore, *Mission Connection* (MC) asked Wes Eby, mission education coordinator, some key questions regarding this topic.

MC: What is your definition of a mission moment?

Wes: To me, a mission moment is a brief period of time, just two to five minutes, when mission information is shared. Simple, eh? By the way, I call them MMs.

MC: But when do you suggest that churches do a mission moment? On Sunday morning?

Wes: Absolutely! Sunday morning would be ideal. In fact, necessary! That's when the greatest number of people attend, right? Mission information given on Wednesday evening is preaching to the

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To mobilize the church in mission through prayer, education, giving, and interactie experiences.

...continued from cover story

"missions choir." I tell NMI leaders, "Do a mission moment as often as possible, whenever the pastor will let you." But MMs are appropriate for Sunday evening, Sunday School, small group meetings, faith promise events, even a church potluck. We must take advantage of every opportunity to inform people of what is happening around the world.

MC: What is the best time for an MM on Sunday morning?

Wes: I don't know that there is a best time. It depends upon the church and its type of worship service. Some churches make announcements before the service begins, and that might be an excellent time. Some might find the offering time most appropriate. I prefer a time near the end of the service after the sermon. What we do in missions is in response to the Word of God. So, after the Word has been read and proclaimed, then the people of God can focus on responding to His command to take His Good News to the entire world.

MC: That's an interesting angle, and certainly worth considering. What resources can NMI folks use for MMs?

Wes: There are oodles of them. I would start with the Adult Mission Education (AME) resource packet. This year, we have included with the lesson options three to five ideas for MMs taken from the lesson information, which is a new feature for AME in 2004. There are some excellent stories this year, and these will make super MMs. I hope mission educators will find this helpful. But I also get MMs from the NMI missions books, *Holiness Today*, Web sites, missionary newsletters, etc. (See **sidebar on page 14** for recommended mission moment resources.)

MC: But what about the churches where mission education is going well on Wednesday or Sunday evening?

Wes: As the old adage goes, "If it ain't broke, then don't fix it." I say "bravo" to those churches. However, an MM on Sunday morning will only enhance what is being done at other times. Remember, the largest attended service in our churches is on Sunday morning, and the people who never come to evening services need to "know" too.

MC: I have one more question, Wes: Why do you call them "snappy" mission moments?

Wes: Well, MMs must be attention-getters, and to do that they must be snappy with some zip and pizzazz. MMs must be presented with such excellence that people remember them. And to make them memorable, they must touch people's emotions—whether creating a chuckle or a lump in the throat. I say, "A mission moment monthly well-done is better than a mission moment weekly half-baked." For example, the "Missions, Missions Rap" (see page 14), if done right, will add flair to the promotion of missions and make it indelible for the participants and audience.

"A mission moment monthly well-done is better than a mission moment weekly half-baked."