

The Christmas of NCM Past, Present, and Future

(A Reading for the NCM Fund Offering)

Cast: Narrator

Person 1—man

Person 2—young woman

Person 3—teenager/young adult

Props: crutches, cloth bandage

Narrator: *(Lights dim as Narrator speaks)* Nazarene Compassionate Ministries—or NCM for short—is dedicated to teaching and encouraging people to live compassion as a lifestyle. Their goal is to live out God's Word, "Inasmuch as you do it to the least of these, you do it unto Me" by responding to pressing human needs of the poor and the powerless. *(Lights up on Person 1)* The ghost of Christmas past.

Person 1: Hello. I am a pastor in Zimbabwe. Most of us in this country live on less than \$1.00 a day. When my little daughter Ruth became sick, I did not know how I was going to pay the doctor for taking care of her. Then I received money from the NCM Fund. No words can express my appreciation. God, who loves us so much, moved the hearts of His dear children to feel for me and acted to redeem my situation. May the Lord bless you and all those who took part in this wonderful act of love.

Narrator: *(Lights down on Person 1 and up on Person 2)* The ghost of Christmas present.

Person 2: *(Leaning on crutches, wearing extra long pants and no shoe on one foot to give the appearance she doesn't have a leg)* My name is Csilla Borsi. I am 26 and a member of the Hajduhadhaz Church of the Nazarene in Hungary. While boarding a train a few months ago, the train started up and I fell under it. I lost my leg, but I praise God that He chose to spare my life. I have four children under the age of 6. I am so glad to be able to still be here to take care of them. *(Pause)* It has been difficult to get used to only having one leg; *(pause)* however, because

caring Nazarenes gave to the NCM Fund, I will be able to get a good prosthesis to help me get around better to take care of my children. Thank you, thank you for giving me this hope!

Narrator: *(Lights down on Person 2 and up on Person 3)* The ghost of Christmas future.

Person 3: Greetings. I am Matthew (or Rachael) from Kenya. My father got AIDS when he was in the clinic and they gave him bad blood. Not knowing he was sick, he infected my mother. *(Pause)* I was only 9 when they died...just four weeks apart. I did not know what to do. My sister, who was 13, tried to take care of me and my younger brother; but it was very hard. Then NCM began a program in my country to help caregivers of AIDS orphans. They bought us 10 chickens and helped us start a vegetable garden so we had enough to live on. Thank you for giving me a hope and a future! *(Lights go up.)*

Narrator: The stories you have just heard are true. When you give to the NCM Fund, you may not know if you are providing a packet of seeds to a starving family or medicines for sick children or much-needed disaster relief. However, one thing you can be sure of, when you give to the NCM Fund, you are giving hope! Let's give generously so many people around the world will celebrate future Christmases!

Rev. Ellen Gailey Decker • Washington District