

## Notes From Conference Call March 16, 2009

Amount of participants—31

- How are people handling the economy in their churches/districts?
  - District hasn't seen a huge downturn at this point.
  - Younger generation isn't giving as much (not just for missions, but tithing as well) in one caller's church.
  - Maps and globes are used to help people visualize the scope of their mission giving.
  - Prayer is the only thing that will pull us through this time.
  - Once church started a "March of Quarters" to help provide funds to support a child in Child Sponsorship; has worked so well they may sponsor another child
    - Caller suggested an idea such as this might be helpful for other churches in mission giving.
  - The articles on World Evangelism Fund (WEF) in the March *Mission Connection* were cited as possible ideas for promotion.
    - One article breaks the offering down into a manageable size.
    - Another is an inspirational WEF story by General Superintendent Jesse Middendorf.
- Many of the callers were unfamiliar with the upcoming changes in WEF giving accepted by the General Board in February.
  - Daniel Ketchum explained the new formula for WEF giving.
    - Starting fiscal year 2010, the new giving formula will be based on a church's income, with the following taken out:
      - ◆ 5.5% for missions with no deductions
      - ◆ 2.0% for Pensions and Benefits
      - ◆ 2.5% for Education
    - Ketchum explained that no changes in how missionaries are being paid will take place.
    - Church of the Nazarene has a great method (WEF), and it is valued; however, church leaders are looking at other giving models in addition to WEF.
    - The giving formula will be the same globally for missions giving; the percentages for Pensions and Benefits and for Education will be different, as those focus on U.S.A./Canada.
  - A caller asked what "income" was (would it include money giving for building fund, etc.)
    - Ketchum explained that a committee will be determining a definition for "income" within the next couple of weeks.
  - Guidance was asked for on how to present giving for Mission Specials—this will be dealt with by the committee as well.
  - Ketchum said one positive aspect of this was that it had become apparent to people in the Global Ministry Center that NMI has raised WEF "on the backs of our missionaries."
- One NMI team member mentioned the positive spirit in the Global Ministry Center even in light of the economic downturn.
  - DP mentioned also experiencing a spirit of hopefulness.
- Ketchum mentioned that General Treasurer Marilyn McCool said that, as of the end of February, WEF giving was down 10% and Mission Specials giving was down 20% compared to the previous year.

- A local president mentioned missing the hard copy of *Mission Connection* and said she would be willing to pay for a hard copy subscription.
  - NMI personnel reiterated the rationale for going with the electronic version—that it was mainly a cost-saving measure.
    - It was pointed out by the president that, by saving money on the Global Ministry Center end, it costs the churches/districts.
- One president mentioned having difficulty downloading the *Mission Connection*.
  - After asking a few questions, we learned that the president wasn't receiving it via e-mail yet.
  - Callers were encouraged to e-mail [missionconnection@nazarene.org](mailto:missionconnection@nazarene.org) to subscribe, and it was explained how to download the magazine from the *Mission Connection Archive* page of the NMI Web site (<[www.nazarenemissions.org](http://www.nazarenemissions.org)>).
- One leader asked if many of the districts had electronic newsletters.
  - An NMI team member said, while she doesn't see all district newsletters, she does know of several that have had electronic newsletters for several years.
  - Several leaders mentioned that their districts, and sometimes their churches, had gone electronic with their newsletters to save print and mailing costs.
- *Mission Connection* editor asked if any leaders had taken the suggestion of having a young person take the responsibility for downloading the magazine; no one mentioned having done that.
  - One leader said that a college student helped with their newsletter and would go to missions sites for news.
    - It was suggested to subscribe to the electronic Mission Connection for that student, since anyone can subscribe and it would bring Nazarene news to the student's computer.
    - This will be suggested in an upcoming issue of the magazine for people who work on newsletters.
- Ketchum gave a brief overview of the World Mission Web magazine, scheduled to launch within the next six to seven weeks.
- Callers were asked to suggest topics for upcoming calls:
  - Ideas for getting commitment of time from young adults
  - How are districts developing mission call coordinators?
  - How do districts organize their councils?
  - What does a district convention look like in this century?
  - Leadership development
  - Creative ways of coordinating Work & Witness in a depressed economy
  - How do New Starts begin a mission program?
  - How do we instill mission passion in a church/area that doesn't have that passion (not just in new areas)?
- The audio file (MP3 format) will be available on the Local Presidents page of the NMI Web site ([www.nazarenemissions.org](http://www.nazarenemissions.org)). Click on "Local Presidents" (upper-right portion of the home page) and then on "Resources and Supplies (left-hand column).