



# October Mission Priority One

## Why NMI? A Quick Look

Nazarene Missions International (NMI) functions as a support system of the world evangelism enterprise of the Church of the Nazarene. As members, we are committed to praying, to discipling, to giving and to educating. By helping your people participate in the ministries of NMI, you can help your church make Mission Priority One for your church.

In carrying out these responsibilities, we promote these emphases:

**Volunteer Ministries**—Work & Witness, Mission Corps (formerly Nazarenes in Volunteer Service), Youth in Mission, Youthserve, NYI volunteer internships, ROAM (RVs on a mission), Nazarene Medical Organization, JESUS Film Harvest Partners, One Heart—Many Hands, and Nazarene Disaster Relief provide every member with the challenge to become personally involved in some arena of world mission. Teens and college students should be encouraged to participate. Professionals are needed for short-term service (doctors, nurses, teachers, etc.). Persons with specialized skills (plumbers, electricians, computer programmers, etc.) are needed. Everyone can serve through Work & Witness. Children can even help in some cases. Those who cannot physically go may participate through prayer and sponsorships.

**Alabaster**—Twice a year (February and September), an offering is received for purchasing property, buildings, and/or building supplies for world mission areas and multicultural churches in the USA/Canada Region. No administrative costs are taken from these offerings. (These costs are covered through the World Evangelism Fund.) Every penny of Alabaster fund is directed solely for providing buildings—80 percent to world mission areas and 20 percent to USA/Canada locations. There is no assigned goal except participation. It is a special way of saying “I love you, Lord,” tangibly.



**World Evangelism Fund/Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings/Faith Promise**—Although it is not exclusively a “mission budget,” NMI has assumed responsibility for promoting and raising the World Evangelism Fund. (Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings, and the designated portion of Faith Promise giving, are directed toward the World Evangelism Fund.) The newly implemented Funding the Mission plan is based on 5.5 percent of all current income from every Church of the Nazarene worldwide minus mission giving. In addition, every church is asked to receive Thanksgiving and Easter offerings to increase the total giving for world evangelism. Many churches participate in Faith Promise, a systematic plan for mission support (it is not required). **No Church of the Nazarene should neglect to promote Easter and Thanksgiving offerings**, even if the church uses Faith Promise as a consistent basis for supporting the World Evangelism Fund. Some individuals do not participate in Faith Promise, and others will want to give in addition to their Faith Promise commitment.

**Mission Education**—It has been said, “Praying for what you don’t know is like coming back from where you’ve never been.” We must be adequately informed to respond effectively. Informed people can and will pray more effectively and give more sacrificially. It is the responsibility of Christian to be informed about missions—mission areas, mission opportunities, mission strategies, mission stewardship, and those who serve as missionaries. This can best be accomplished by being an active learner through personal involvement (such as Work & Witness), personal encounters with missionaries (deputation services), regular mission education experiences, reading the NMI mission books or listening to CDs, watching *Global Mission DVDs*, reading *Holiness Today*, subscribing to free e-mail newsletters from missionaries, Global Mission regions, and *Engage* online mission magazine. *Mission Connection* is an online resource created specifically for local NMI leaders, but available to everyone. Resources are available; being informed is a choice!



*Praying for what you don't know is like coming back from where you've never been.*

**Missionary Care**—This “umbrella” includes health care for active and retired missionaries; LINKS; and Christmas Fund.

A portion of health care costs are funded through Memorial Rolls (in honor of deceased persons), Distinguished Service Awards (presented to recipients in recognition of outstanding service), Gifts from the Heart (donations made in memory of a deceased person or in honor of someone or for a special occasion), and freewill offerings. Because the cost of missionaries’ health care is greater than the income from this source, the balance must be paid from the World Evangelism Fund. Hence, greater participation in “Missionary Health Care” extends the impact of the World Evangelism Fund dollar.

LINKS connects every church with designated missionaries for two-year cycles. It is a program that provides personal involvement by churches and individuals with selected missionaries. It is the privilege and responsibility of each district through its churches to provide remembrances on special occasions and other times throughout the year. Only one district is assigned to each LINKS missionary; therefore, it is important not to neglect LINKS care.

The Missionary Christmas Fund provides a monetary Christmas gift for all missionaries, as well as *Reflecting God* and “Day by Day” books.

**World Mission Broadcast**—Communications is an area of missions that has literally exploded with possibilities. Communication centers have been built in each of our world regions. They serve not only as broadcasting centers, but also as learning labs where people are trained to effectively record and produce radio broadcasts in their locality. World Mission Broadcast (WMB) reaches the unreachable! With new technology, this ministry has expanded beyond radio to include television and Internet broadcasts. There are several countries in which Nazarene broadcasts are aired, but where no Nazarene churches have yet been established. World Mission Broadcast does not receive funds from the World Evangelism Fund; it is funded solely by WMB offerings. Every church is asked to participate in the annual WMB Offering.



**International Ministries, Bible Schools & Seminaries**—This ministry is a “must” as we recognize the value of training pastors and workers in ministry. Theological Education by Extension (TEE) has taken the classroom to the student. In many world areas, pastors are bi-vocational. TEE offers the courses required for ordination. Bible colleges and seminaries are essential in providing classroom education, as well as practical experience. Nazarene educational institutions around the world are training men and women for ministry, as well as teachers, nurses, and vocational and lay leaders.

**Membership**—Membership in NMI is open to anyone, regardless of church membership or age. NMI members who are also members of the Church of the Nazarene are “active members,” and those who are not church members are “associate members.” Therefore, it is not only possible, but advisable, that every church have more total NMI members than church members. Excellent resources are available for mission education for children and youth, as well as for adults. Every church should encourage participation by children and teens, regardless of the number or whether separate meetings are held. Mission involvement is for all ages!

**Mission Priority One**—Certain criteria have been established which qualify local churches to be honored with this recognition. Mission Priority One churches have achieved the four basic requirements of Praying, Discipling, Giving, and Educating. By striving to involve all ages to participate in these four objectives, a church makes missions a priority to her people.

**Nazarene Compassionate Ministries**—This ministry’s mission is to make a difference in our world by meeting physical, emotional, relational, intellectual and spiritual needs. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) is recognized internationally and has many faces, many hands. Whether the need is disaster response or an ever-present scene of famine, disease, and nakedness, NCM is there because Nazarenes are involved personally and financially. NCM fights the perils of poverty by teaching hygiene, nutrition, and job skills. It opens doors to ministry of the Word by touching “the least of these.” Child sponsorship and offerings are just two ways churches and individuals may be involved..

**Prayer & Fasting**—One of the core objectives of NMI is prayer. Missionaries depend on the prayer support of the church “at home.” One missionary said, “The greatest fear I have is that the church will forget to pray for me.” We must not only be pray-ers ourselves, we must teach others to pray. Fasting breaks down barriers and strong-holds that thwart the growth of the Kingdom. Prayer is a continuing emphasis of NMI. Throughout the year, a variety of prayer initiatives are presented via NMI, events such as “Nazarene World Week of Prayer,” Praying Through the 10/40 Window (a rectangular area of the world between 10 degrees south and 40 degrees north of the equator), and the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Be aware of when the next prayer initiative will take place.

**Nazarene Missions International** is a vital ministry in the church. It should never be considered optional or unnecessary. Instead, NMI should be embraced and put to work, assisting churches in responding to the Great Commission. An increasing amount of information is available online ([www.nazarenemissions.org](http://www.nazarenemissions.org)). This provides great opportunity for dissemination of the latest information and updates. Missions is exciting! NMI provides personal connection.

Martha Bean

Indianapolis District NMI President

## **Mission Priority One— Help Build Missions in Your Church**

You'll need:

- **Cement of Praying**—holding everything together
- **Workers for Discipling**—your church's children and youth, as well as adults to equip and affirm them
- **Nails of Giving**—can't build without financial resources
- **Building blocks of Educating**—the stronger the building, the longer it will last

Ruth Hasenauer  
New Mexico District