

MISSION PRIORITY ONE

What it was... what it is

Since the earliest days of NMI, missions achievement standards were set for both local churches and districts. From the Standard and Superior Societies (1924), to the Seven-Point Society (early 1950s), and to the Star Society (1956), the concept was changed to Mission Award (1976). In 2002, **the achievement program** was renamed **Mission Priority One** to **reflect a church's priority on missions.**

Rationale for Change to Mission Priority One Requirements

Mission Priority One (MPO) was revised and adopted unanimously by the General NMI Council in June 2005. It became part of the NMI Handbook and Constitution for 2005-09. An objective must have a design whereby it can be fulfilled - thus, the **Mission Priority One** program.

The General NMI Council reaffirmed the value of Mission Priority One as a basis for accountability on the local and district levels in reaching the core objectives of NMI, which reflect the **NMI mission statement: To mobilize the church in mission through prayer, education, giving, and interactive experiences.**

The means by which the four objectives are measured remain the same for three objectives: **prayer, children and youth**, and **giving**. However, the measurement for global awareness (mission education) has been changed. The rationale for the changes is twofold:

1. to **better reflect** how the 21st century church accomplishes its mission, and
2. to **simplify the process** of measurement and accountability.

Notes:

While the term "global awareness" will be used for MPO, "mission education" will still be used in other contexts (e.g., mission education resources).

Even though the change to the MPO requirements eliminated mission education credits, each church is still expected to report the number of books "read" each year. Districts and local churches may establish "reading" goals, if so desired.

General NMI 2005

Achievement Goals

The **achievement goals** are based on the four objectives of NMI.

1. The church prayed for missions.
2. The church participated* in **each** of the five global awareness categories that follow:
 - a. Global awareness resources
 - b. NMI missions books / tapes / CDs
 - c. Missions service projects and / or hands-on missions activities
 - d. Missions speakers
 - e. Multimedia missions resources and / or missions publications /communications
3. The church involved children and youth in missions.
4. The church paid World Evangelism Fund in full.

"Participate" is defined as involvement in one or more activities in **each category.*

[A record of a church's participation in these four objectives should be kept throughout the year.](#)

The district will send a report form near the end of the church year for the local president to submit the church's participation in these objectives:

MISSION PRIORITY ONE GUIDELINES

1. PRAYER

Objective: To encourage people to pray for all efforts of global evangelization.

Requirement: The church will pray for missions.

Helpful Ideas:

- a. Provide regular prayer requests to the church. Possible sources are Prayer Mobilization Line (call 816-444-PRAY or via e-mail subscription or the NMI Web site <www.nazarenemissions.org/pml>), missionaries' newsletters, worship folders, handouts, pastoral prayer, announcements, etc.
- b. Emphasize prayer and fasting.
- c. Establish specific times for prayer and/or form a prayer chain/network.
- d. Plan church-wide participation in World Day of Prayer, Nazarene World Week of Prayer, prayer for the Persecuted Church, 10/40 Window, and *JESUS* film.

2. GLOBAL AWARENESS

Objective: To inform people of the world's needs and what the church is doing to meet those needs.

Requirement: The church will use missions resources and participate in activities to develop global awareness.

Helpful Ideas:

- a. Use **global awareness resources**: adult mission education, youth mission education, children's mission education, and/or *International Mission Education Journal*.
- b. Make **NMI missions books/tapes/CDs** available to the congregation. The number of books "read" will be reported.
- c. Participate in **missions service projects** (such as Work & Witness, Youth in Mission, Youthserve, CAUSE, NCM centers, Good Samaritan churches, community projects, etc.) and/or **hands-on missions activities** (Crisis Care Kits, School Pal-Paks, relief shipments, LINKS packages, unofficial LINKS, etc.)
- d. Schedule one or more services with a **missions speaker** (local, zone/area, district, and/or regional events; faith promise) and/or provide interaction with a missions speaker (district teen/children's camps, missions events, district NMI convention, missions workshops, etc.)
- e. Use **multimedia missions resources** (such as *World Mission DVD*, missions Web sites, videos, Nazarene Communications News, etc.), and/or utilize **missions publications and communications** (such as *Mission Connection*, *Global Glimpses*, *Nazarene Compassionate Ministries* magazine, *Holiness Today*, missionaries' newsletters, regional newsletters, etc.)

3. CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Objective: To challenge children and youth to learn about and participate in the mission of the church and to respond to God's call.

Requirement: The church will provide opportunities for the children and youth to experience missions and to respond to God's call.

Helpful Ideas:

- a. Provide global awareness with Children's Ministries, NYI, Sunday School, etc., using children's and youth missions resource materials.
- b. Use pages from *Mission Connection*.
- c. Plan for visiting missionaries to interact with children and youth.
- d. Encourage them to sacrificially give to missions, especially to World Evangelism Fund, Alabaster, and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries.
- e. Involve them in faith promise events.
- f. Participate in Crisis Care Kits and School Pal-Paks projects.
- g. Cooperate with zone and district missions projects and activities.
- h. Enlist youth for summer ministries—local, district, and general levels.
- i. Participate in special missions emphases at camps, retreats, etc.
- j. Plan a commitment service for children/youth.
- k. Encourage children and youth who sense God's call to missionary service to contact the local and district Mission Call Coordinator.

4. GIVING

Objective: To raise funds for missions outreach.

Requirement: The church will pay World Evangelism Fund in full.


Helpful Ideas:

- a. Plan an effective faith promise event.
- b. Promote Easter and Thanksgiving offerings.
- c. Pay World Evangelism Fund on a 10-month plan.

PROMO IDEA

M I S S I O N R I O R I T Y O N E

Each Part Is Necessary...



to Make Missions a
Priority in Our Church.
Mission Priority One

Bulletin Board/Display Idea: Cut circles out of four colors of bright cellophane or tissue paper. Overlapping them, place the four points of Mission Priority One and

the word "Priority" on them as shown with the other words above and below.

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