



YOUTH



## LINK Your Youth to Missionaries

Today's media, especially the Internet, has made the world a small place for our youth. They do not have to leave the comfort of their homes or schools to get more global information than what they can process.

However, a problem youth often face is receiving a one-sided or incomplete account of the world events. We need to show them **God's story**. The youth need to understand what He is doing around the world, and how the Church of the Nazarene plays an important role in His story. Kids should be so engaged that they realize the church is making a difference in the world, even when the media does not show it.

### What Can You Do?

Gather news clips, articles, or other information regarding current events about the world area where your church's LINKS missionaries live. If they serve in the U.S.A. or Canada, choose stories from the city/state/province where they based.

Contact the missionaries and ask them what the Church of the Nazarene is doing in their area of service. Especially ask for stories related to the news you hear from that place. It might help them if you e-mail them an article you have found and ask if they can respond to it. (Keep in mind that missionaries are not to comment on politics in the area where they serve, so be sensitive how you word your questions.)

Have the youth view the video footage or read the articles collected. Allow them to discuss the items.

Explain that your church has a personal relationship with missionaries who serve in the world area they just discussed. Tell the youth what kind of work the missionaries do, and have the teens read or view what the missionaries have said about events where they are. Ask

the youth to compare the stories from the media and the stories from the missionaries.

Conclude by explaining to the group that God is working in the world, and He needs them to be active participants. Even if they cannot yet go to these places, they can still be part of God's story by supporting the LINKS missionaries by praying for them regularly, giving offerings for them, and sharing the missionaries' stories with their friends and family.

### If Your Missionaries Are in Sensitive Areas...

You may not know exactly where your LINKS missionaries serve. If that is the case, skip the gathering of news items and explain that in some areas the missionaries cannot name where they serve to protect the people they work with from persecution.

Sometimes you can contact these missionaries. If you can, ask them to explain as much as they can about what they do.

If you do not have contact information for them, it might be advisable to have some short blurbs from The Voice of the Martyrs Web site <[www.persecution.com](http://www.persecution.com)> or the Open Doors Web site <[www.opendoors.org](http://www.opendoors.org)>. Choose blurbs from a variety of world areas.

After the students read or view the items, explain that these stories are representative of the world area where your LINKS missionaries serve. Tell the youth that the missionaries' communication is limited to protect themselves and the people they work with.

Have a time of prayer for your missionaries and the challenges they face working in a sensitive area.

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