

Mission Education and Mission Moments

Why Mission Education?

Knowledge is key to involvement. With an understanding of the needs of the world and what the church is doing to meet those needs, we are more likely to commit to the support of missions through prayer, giving, communication, and going.

How Does Mission Education Take Place?

Learning takes place in a variety of venues. Experiences, listening to and reading stories, and getting to know missionaries on a personal level enhance mission awareness. Your local NMI president or mission education secretary can tell you of the many exciting opportunities for mission education.

- **Use of age-appropriate curricula and NMI reading books/tapes** provide learning opportunities and activities designed to engage people of all ages in missions.

—Children's Mission Education

2008-09 Children's Mission Kit: "Kidz Passport to Missions"

The 2008-2009 Kidz Passport to Missions curriculum features the Caribbean/USA/Canada Regions. Lessons focus on regional leaders, volunteer workers, missionaries, and the work they do in the following countries: Belize, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Dominica, Suriname, Canada, and the United States. The beginning of our work in Haiti by Paul and Mary Orjala is highlighted, and a story written especially for children by General Superintendent Jerry Porter is included.

The curriculum includes a CD with 24 activity sheets to supplement lessons and Power Points of the artwork from each mission book. Resource items include the following: Caribbean/USA/Canada Regional Map, Caribbean Market Mystery Poster, Caribbean Cruise Game, and Deep-Sea Adventure Game. *The materials are adaptable to your needs and schedule*

—Youth Mission Education

2008-09 Youth Mission Education Curriculum (YME): "Open for Service"

Culture Shock calls teenagers to recognize the Church's responsibility to multicultural ministry. It calls youth groups to tear down old stereotypes, move beyond prejudice, and embrace the mosaic of culture and ethnicity that the Body of Christ is called to become. Culture Shock serves as year 4 of a six year cycle of curriculum designed to develop a lifestyle of mission awareness and service in your youth as they become global Christians.

The YME packet includes a Leader's Guide, reproducible handouts, CD-ROM, and a poster. The materials can be used both by small churches with just a few youth and large churches who regularly take youth mission trips.

—Adult Mission Education

Responding to Mission Challenges: 2008-09 Adult Mission Education Leader's Resource Packet

Responding to Mission Challenges—Nazarene missionaries face unique challenges as they minister to the lost around the world. Whether it is the AIDS epidemic in Africa, alcohol and drug addictions in Ukraine, persecution in creative access countries, spiritual warfare, or cross-cultural misunderstandings, these warriors of God rely on the church to intercede on their behalf. Learn more about the struggles and challenges our missionaries face and how you can make a difference in their efforts to win the lost to Christ.

- For **multicultural congregations**, the *International Mission Education Journal* is a curriculum piece that includes mission education lessons for adults and children. It is produced in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Churches should contact their district NMI president for more information on this resource.
- The **hands-on experiences** of **Volunteer Opportunities** programs (*see below*) often provide opportunities for people to see missions firsthand.

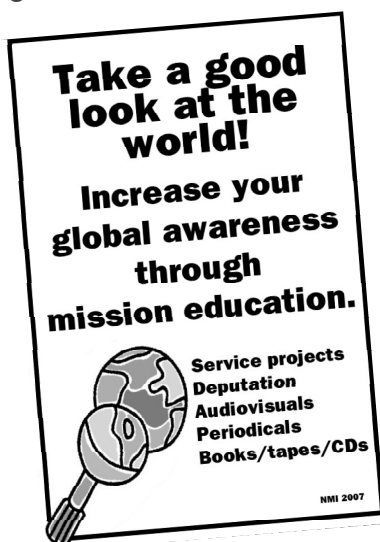
Volunteer Opportunities

The Church of the Nazarene offers many opportunities for volunteering. In fact, the Church of the Nazarene is the second-largest of all the volunteer-sending agencies in the United States. Thousands of people of all ages volunteer their time and talents for missions around the world. The main avenues of volunteer ministry through the Church of the Nazarene are:



- **Work & Witness** — a ministry for all ages providing construction, evangelism, medical work, office work, or other services needed in a world mission area — approximately two weeks.
- **Mission Corps** — allows individuals from every age group and background to use a variety of skills and abilities in a world area. Opportunities vary from a few weeks to one year, depending on the need and the individual's availability.
- **Nazarene Medical Organization** — Nazarene Health Care Ministries (NHCM) provides a link between the need and the response.
- **Youth In Mission** — a summer program that provides short-term mission and ministry opportunities for individuals between the ages of 18 and 30. Programs include:
 - Contact — ministering to North American children
 - Mission to the Cities — a ministry to selected North American cities
 - International Student Ministries — an opportunity to witness in various world areas and to work with missionaries and/or local leaders
- **YouthServe** — provides opportunities for Nazarene youth with mission participation, helping them develop a global perspective and facilitate mission awareness
 - Grateful Heart — raises mission awareness and mobilizes youth in supporting missions — 1-2 days
 - Near to Here—offers hands-on experience for youth in reaching out to others in a local or district setting — 1-5 days
 - Touch the Nation — youth serve others and are examples of Jesus to a specific national community — 1-5 days
 - Go Global — students travel to another country and experience cross-cultural ministry — 1-3 weeks
- **Local and District Opportunities** — possibilities for ministry close to home, allowing all ages to take part
 - Community Service Projects
 - Compassionate Ministries Centers
 - Good Samaritan Churches
 - Special Needs Groups — within local churches
- **Prayer** — those involved in volunteer ministries are in need of intercession. Through prayer, everyone may participate
- **Crisis Care Kits** — A cooperative effort between NMI and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Crisis Care Kits (CCKs) contain a variety of hygiene materials to assist disaster victims or others in need.
- **School Pal-Paks** — provide students in Nazarene primary schools with the supplies they need to facilitate learning, such as pencils, scissors, etc.
- **Audiovisuals** offer people the ability to "see and hear" missions. Each church receives an annual audiovisual catalog.
- **Deputation services, Faith Promise conventions, district-sponsored events** with a missionary speaker, and the presence of **missionaries-in-residence** at youth and children's camps allow for interaction between missionaries and the people who support them through their giving and prayers.
- **Mission books** are available for children, youth, and adults. Insert "book blurbs" into your bulletin, newsletter, or website. (*Book blurbs can be found online at www.nazarenemission.org. Look under Missions Education, then NMI Missions books.*)
- **Create a Web site** for your local mission education lesson. Use the information and creative ideas included in your education curriculum to make your event fun and interesting! Don't forget to include a link to the General NMI website... <<http://www.nazarenemissions.org>>. Include your site info in your church bulletin or newsletter. Be sure to update your site on a regular basis!

(Melinda Wolf Miller – Assistant Editor, Mission Connection)



Check out the latest promo ideas at
[www.nazarenemissions.org!](http://www.nazarenemissions.org)



Storyteller Teaches about Nazarene Missions

Some years ago, we had a lesson about an African storyteller. At that time I got an electric light with a bulb of small wattage, plugged it in, covered it with red tissue paper, added some sticks, and made a "campfire."

As the storyteller, I tried to look as close to the part as possible with a costume, makeup, and so on. My helpers were dressed similarly. We all memorized our parts, which took some study, however, I tried to keep it fairly simple for the helpers,




asking each of them three questions since their answers were quite involved.

I called our people to the front of the church—the older ones sitting on the floor, the older ones on seats. It is such a popular lesson presentation that the African storyteller has been used twice across the years (not ten, lest it get boring). Once we invited a neighboring church to attend.

This lesson option takes a lot of effort, but I thrive on it. I have been missionary education presenter for at least 15 years now, and I love it.

Irma Lee Herrick • Rural Town, Kansas



Six Book Club

Church of the Nazarene
Congratulates

May your journey to other countries through reading make you aware of the need to pray for others and give you a desire to allow God to unfold His plan for your life.

"Speak, for Your servant hears." 1 Samuel 3:10b

Pastor

Local NMI President

Janet Carr • Upstate New York District

Editor's Note: This certificate was originally for six-book children's book readers for the Upstate New York District. It has been adapted for all ages in the local church.

Mission Moments

The General NMI Office team often hears from local NMI presidents who share mission education challenges. Here are a few suggestions:

Videos

- Show brief mission awareness videos in the Sunday morning service (*no more than 60-90 seconds*). We suggest videos from the quarterly *World Mission Video Magazine*, which is sent to every local church on DVD.
- Split a longer video into short segments (again, no more than 60-90 seconds) and show it over several weeks. Announce in the church bulletin that the continuation of the story will be shown at the next Sunday morning service.

Adult Mission Education Curriculum

- Team up with Sunday School teachers. Ask them if they will allow you to “substitute teach” occasionally (once a month, every other month, or quarterly), using the Adult Mission Education curriculum for the sessions.
- Use the Adult Mission Education curriculum in your small groups or Bible study.

Snappy Mission Moments

“When do we work in mission education?” is a common question today from local NMI presidents. They then comment, “We just don’t have time to do missions anymore.”

Since many churches have changed their Wednesday and Sunday evening service formats, which traditionally have been the times for focusing on missions, presenting mission information has become a challenge. One of the newer methods is “mission moments”; therefore, *Mission Connection* (MC) asked Wes Eby, mission education coordinator, some key questions regarding this topic.

MC: What is your definition of a mission moment?

Wes: To me, a mission moment is a brief period of time, just two to five minutes, when mission information is shared. Simple, eh? By the way, I call them MMs.

MC: But when do you suggest that churches do a mission moment? On Sunday morning?

Wes: Absolutely! Sunday morning would be ideal. In fact, necessary! That’s when the greatest number of people attend, right? Mission information given on Wednesday evening is preaching to the “missions choir.” I tell NMI leaders, “Do a mission moment as often as possible, whenever the pastor will let you.” But MMs are appropriate for Sunday evening, Sunday School, small group meetings, faith promise events, even a church potluck. We must take advantage of every opportunity to inform people of what is happening around the world.

MC: What is the best time for an MM on Sunday morning?

Wes: I don’t know that there is a *best time*. It depends upon the church and its type of worship service. Some churches make announcements before the service begins, and that might be an excellent time. Some might find the offering time most appropriate. I prefer a time near the end of the service after the sermon. What we do in missions is in response to the Word of God. So, after the Word has been read and proclaimed, then the people of God can focus on responding to His command to take His Good News to the entire world.

MC: That’s an interesting angle, and certainly worth considering. What resources can NMI folks use for MMs?

Wes: There are oodles of them. I would start with the Adult Mission Education (AME) resource packet. This year, we have included with the lesson options three to five ideas for MMs taken from the lesson information, which is a new feature for AME in 2004. There are some excellent stories this year, and these will make super MMs. I hope mission educators will find this helpful. But I also get MMs from the NMI missions books, *Holiness Today*, Web sites, missionary newsletters, etc.

MC: But what about the churches where mission education is going well on Wednesday or Sunday evening?

Wes: As the old adage goes, “If it ain’t broke, then don’t fix it.” I say “bravo” to those churches. However, an MM on Sunday morning will only enhance what is being done at other times. Remember, the largest attended service in our churches is on Sunday morning, and the people who never come to evening services need to “know” too.

MC: I have one more question; Why do you call them “snappy” mission moments?

Wes: Well, MMs must be attention-getters, and to do that they must be snappy with some zip and pizzazz. MMs must be presented with such excellence that people remember them. And to make them memorable, they must touch people’s emotions - whether creating a chuckle or a lump in the throat. I say, “A mission moment monthly well-done is better than a mission moment weekly half-baked.” For example, the “Missions, Missions Rap” (below) if done right, will add flair to the promotion of missions and make it indelible for the participants and audience.

Missions, Missions Rap

by Wes Eby

* Invite a youth or youth group to rap this promotion.

The bold syllables indicate four stressed beats per line, which should be reflected in the speaking voice/s.

** **Note:** Part 1 reflects an attitude of many people today—"missions" and "money" are equated.

Part 2 affirms what the attitude should be - "missions" and "people" are synonymous. A brief explanation or exhortation may be given before each part. The paragraph after Part 1 is an example.

Part 1

Missions, Missions! What does it mean?
Missions, Missions! How is it seen?
Giving, giving, and giving some more.
Off'rings, off'rings, more than before.
Budgets here and dollars there;
Money is all you folks talk about and care.
Missions—Budgets! That's what it means.
Missions—Off'rings! That's how it's seen.

My friends, this is what some people today think when they hear the word *missions*. How unfortunate! How mistaken they are! Now, let me remind us of what *missions* is really about.

Part 2

Missions, Missions! What does it mean?
Missions, Missions! How is it seen?
Going and preaching, loving and caring,
Helping and teaching, serving and sharing.
Working and toiling, winning the lost.
Striving and moiling at any cost.
Men and women, sisters and brothers,
Teens and children, people and others.
Missions—People! That's what it means.
Missions—Others! That must be seen.

MISSION MOMENTS SOURCES

- Adult Mission Education (AME) study packet
- NMI missions books
- NMI Web site <www.nazarenemissions.org>. Check out "Helpful Sites", "NMI Update", and "Fast Facts."
- Global Glimpses
- Mission Connection magazine
- NMI page and other mission articles in Holiness Today.
- World Mission DVD/Video Magazine
- NMI missions books promotions (available from the district NMI president)
- World Mission Department Web site <www.nazareneworldmission.org>
- NCM Web site <www.nazcompassion.org>. Click on "The Latest", "Lifestyle Education", and "Newsletter".
- Harvest Partners JESUS Film Ministries Web site <www.jfp.org>
- NCN News web site <www.ncnnews.org>
- Personal contacts with missionaries, including deputation services.
- Missionaries' newsletters.
- World Mission Regions' newsletters.
- The Church Around the World, monthly publication of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Order toll-free 1-800-495-3265.
- Book: *Operation World: When We Pray God Works* by Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk <www.wec-int.org>
- Prayer for the Persecuted Church Web site <www.persecutedchurch.org>
- The Voice of the Martyrs Web site <www.persecution.com>
- Yourself. Be creative. Think outside the proverbial hard-toopen box (a.k.a. NMI tradition)