
NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL



Leora Legacy, NMI President

September 2019

Alabaster Offering September 22

On Sunday, September 22 is the Alabaster Offering. Alabaster is a tangible example of sacrifice and a life lived in love with our Savior. Read Matthew 26:6-13 of the woman who poured her valuable alabaster ointment on Jesus' feet to show she loved Him and to symbolize His future sacrificial death. Alabaster is known wherever Nazarenes are in the world. It is actually an NMI brand. These funds buy property and materials to build churches, clinics, schools and pastors' homes worldwide. Alabaster offerings are taken in September and February. **Bring bagged coins, cash and checks (payable to UBNC) to the Alabaster church on the lobby table. Alabaster boxes are available there as well.**

2019-2022 Florida District LINKS Missionaries

Erika Contreras Medina – Argentina

Joe & Cheryl Young & family – East Timor

Mary Meighan – Retired/Bradenton, FL

Beverly Schmelzenbach – Retired/formerly in Florida but relocated to Tennessee

Praise

Bible Quizzing Ignites French Nazarenes – For Nazarene children and youth in France, Bible quizzing has made them excited about being part of the church and passionate about God's word. In France, it is rare for young people to meet other believers outside their local churches. It is unlikely that there are other believers in their grades, perhaps in their whole schools. Bible quizzing allows Nazarene children and youth to meet other Christians their ages and forge friendships beyond their local churches. At the same time, they memorize Scripture and learn more about God's love and the Bible. The quizzers from many cultures have also energized their parents, pastors, and churches to reach their communities for Christ. Give thanks for the children's and youth Bible quizzing ministries of the Church of the Nazarene. Ask God to help them provide a new spark and purpose for Christians that will spread from France to other European nations as well.

Prayer

Pray for the following Missionaries during September:

Fernando and Liliana Almeida, Portugal

Cezi and Martin Glendenning, Hungary

Carlos and Claudia Juárez, Ecuador

Brian and Erin Ketchum, France

Beckey and Nathan Mason, Papua New Guinea

Christian and Margit Sarmiento, Colombia

Byung-Gi Timothy & Hyun-Soon Lydia Kim, Micronesia

Ana Maria & Fernando Jorge Carvalho, São Tomé and Príncipe

Danilo Ulisses and Maria Antonia Carvalho, Senegal

Emily and Scott Armstrong, Dominican Republic

Anélie and Daniel Abdou Gomis, South Africa

Evans and Njeri Katanga, Ghana

Eliezel and Tammy Soto, Panama

Caroline and Lucas Augusto Neves, Argentina

Lynn and Sherry Shmidt, Philippines

Pray for the ministry and safety of the Nazarene General Superintendents as they travel this month:

Eugenio R Duarte

David W Graves

David A Busic

Gustavo A Crocker

Filimano M. Chambo

Carla D Sunberg

The Call Is for All

Fascinating Facts

- 47 percent of Nazarene pastors sensed God's call to vocational ministry between the ages of 10 and 19; 37 percent sensed a call between 20 and 39 years of age. (Source: Association of Nazarene Sociologists and Researchers [ANSR] Poll of pastors, Research Services, Church of the Nazarene)
- 26 percent of Nazarene pastors answered their call to preach by 19 years of age, while 35 percent answered their call by 29 years of age. (Source: ANSR Poll of pastors, Nazarene Research Services)

How Does God Call?

Since God knows how to personalize His message to fit the personality and experience of people, there is no formula to predict how God calls. One principle that underpins the process is learning to recognize God's direction and developing a desire to say "yes" every time. That is what Ana did.

Ana was 5 when she asked Jesus into her heart. A few years later after viewing the JESUS Film, she felt God nudging her to volunteer at church. By the time she was a high school senior, she had served in multiple roles for her church and district. During her last year at youth camp, the director invited everyone to ask God if He wanted them to become a missionary. It was a warm pull on her heart that helped Ana to say "yes" to that question.

But Ana felt conflicted because her father had talked about her becoming a civil engineer to take over his construction company. In an agonizing prayer time, a wise Bible teacher reminded Ana that God knew her heart and knew how to open the right doors, even in her father's heart. So, Ana honored her father by pursuing civil engineering and waited for God's door to open.

When Ana knew it was time to start seminary classes, she showed her application to her father. He simply smiled and agreed to seminary as long she worked on both degrees without failing a class. That's exactly what she did. Today she serves with her husband in Panama as secretary to the director of the Church of the Nazarene/Mesoamerica Region. Ana found out that when you say "yes, [God] will show you His time, open His doors, and lead you to His way."

How Do We Confirm God's Call?

Hannah Whitall Smith in her classic *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* shared timeless principles. She reminds that God reveals His will "through Scripture, through providential circumstances, through the conviction of our higher judgment, and through the inward

impressions of the Holy Spirit." However, she cautions Christians not to rely on one alone but look for the "harmonization" of all. In that unity, God speaks loudly. Charles Davis assumed God wanted him to be a minister, but God had another call that fit him better. It took that "harmonization" for Charles to recognize his call.

How Do We Answer God's Call?

Think of God's call as an invitation, but not just any invitation. It is a life-changing invitation to participate in God's adventure picked out just for you. It could be raising children to be God's instruments. It could include placing an employee in an office where someone needs your friendship and witness. Or it could send you many miles away from everything familiar. One pastor put it this way: "Whatever you're good at, do it well for the glory of God and do it somewhere for the mission of God." That's what Erika did.

At 14, Erika dreamed that God was asking her to "Go!" While she didn't know where or when, she did plan to say "yes." It was at a Cross-Cultural Orientation seven years later when God reaffirmed His call and helped her know that it would take her to other countries.

Erika wanted to prepare herself the best way possible. Her skill in math and interest in learning how to manage people, finances, and projects led her to industrial engineering. After graduating with her degree, she found a good job that included travel to Mexico. There she connected with the Nazarene Global Mission Mobilization coordinator, which resulted in an assignment for six months. Her management skills proved helpful in the Genesis project, planting churches on the Mesoamerica Region. In fact, she was asked to take a full-time position as a missionary in the Dominican Republic as a project planner. Today she continues to work on a water project for Haiti, developing timelines, budgets, and baseline studies; all because she studied industrial engineering in preparation to answer God's call to "Go!"

It Is an Ageless Call!

The Bible shares no retirement stories. In fact, the opposite is usually true. God has a way of using seasoned, experienced, and well-grounded seniors to do His work. That's what Bill and Theresa* found out.

After 35 years of pastoral ministry and sending off their own daughter and her family to be Nazarene missionaries, Bill and Theresa heard God calling them to cross-cultural mission work too. Today, they serve the South Asia Field of the Church of the Nazarene Eurasia Region. As a bonus, they get to serve in the same area as their daughter.