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NWO District NMI President's Report – June 2022

Our Vision

Constant action – John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me

Obedience and self-denial – Mark 8:34

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, “if anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

Beginning where we are – Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit is upon you and you will become witnesses of me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria and to the farthest parts of the earth.

ACTION

A

Community

Together

In

Outreach

Nearby



All ages

It is important that followers of Christ of all ages understand that we must be active in serving Him and find ways to do that right in our own homes, in our own churches, our own schools, colleges and communities. We do not have to travel thousands of miles away to a different country to serve the Lord. We can serve Him right where we live. If we do, our communities will be transformed with the light of the Lord and lives will be made new.

First Retreat

Our first ACTION retreat was just this past MAY 6-7 at the campgrounds. The first evening we shared in a wonderful worship time together led by Kate Ratliff. Then we enjoyed a time of prayer together and sharing about our communities and hometowns where we came from and then had an activity together organized by Pastor Andy Reynard. We had planned a bonfire, but it was raining so hard we stayed indoors but really enjoyed our time of fellowship and fun together. On the Saturday, there was no rain, but the ground was soggy, but it did not stop us enjoying two scavenger hunt activities organized by Pastors Andy Reynard and Daniel Fulks from Fayette. Then after lunch, we enjoyed helping the Agape Ministries in St Mary's unpack their new consignment of items for their warehouse and organize some seasonal items for them. We then returned to the campgrounds for a little rest time before dinner, after which we left for home.

We really enjoyed our time together and loved the fact that our attendees included a child of 6 right up to friends in their 70s. We all worked together! We also shared fellowship together and fun activities. What a wonderful time of sharing and action! We noted, too, that we had time to share about what is going on in the communities around our churches and how we could even begin to help each other reach out moving forward. If one church is struggling, another church can help with various projects and so on.

Ongoing Projects

We will be sharing pics of the retreat on our website and also, we will be encouraging churches to share not only our regular mission projects but also our "ACTION projects" which will be our community-based projects that we are involved in locally and through which we are reaching out missionally to our communities around our churches and following Jesus right where we are.



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Our Regions – start where you are

NORTHWESTERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

HOME ABOUT CALENDAR MINISTRIES RESOURCES

THE Church of the Nazarene has been global from its founding. The Church of the Nazarene is organized into six regions in **164 world areas**. Each week, Nazarenes worship in more than **212 languages or tribal languages**. To learn more about the church across the world, you can visit the different regional websites.

- USA/CANADA REGION
- EURASIA REGION
- MESO AMERICA REGION
- AFRICA REGION
- ASIA-PACIFIC REGION
- SOUTH AMERICA REGION

Your Connection Point

- I'm a pastor
- I am looking for district resources
- I'm passionate about church planting
- I'm passionate about evangelism
- I serve in multicultural ministry
- I serve in children's ministry
- I serve in youth ministry
- I am interested in compassionate ministry
- I serve in discipleship ministries
- I'm interested in education for lay leaders
- I'm looking for a ministry position
- I'm looking for NazSafe



So, you begin serving right where you are and then move out to your region and find your “connection points” according to how you feel God is leading you. Which ministry area? Not only pastors are “called”. As followers of Christ, we are all already called to follow Him. Keep praying and asking the Lord for His leading and finding out how and where He wants you to serve, then go.

The religious landscape of the United States continues to change at a rapid clip. In Pew Research Center telephone surveys conducted in 2018 and 2019, 65% of American adults describe themselves as Christians when asked about their religion, down 12 percentage points over the past decade. Meanwhile, the religiously unaffiliated share of the population, consisting of people who describe their religious identity as atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular,” now stands at 26%, up from 17% in 2009. [Pew Research Center](#)

According to data collected in April/May 2020 by Barna Group, one-in-three practicing Christians dropped out of church completely during COVID-19. Last June, the AP broke a story about many houses of worship in the U.S. that were shuttered forever due to the pandemic. What’s worse, church membership in the U.S. dropped below 50% for the first time in 2020, according to Gallup data dating back to 1940. [Institute for Family Studies](#)

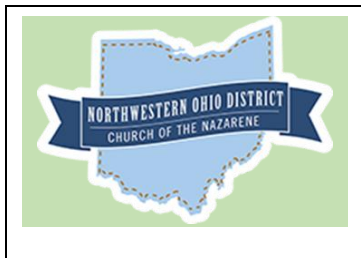
.....and the trend is continuing with many younger people staying away from church completely. So, what is our challenge? Let’s take Jesus to our community in practical and meaningful ways.

Church Visits

I have visited about 10 services around the district to speak for Faith Promise Services and other services as well as visit a Christian school here in Ohio to speak with students. I also was invited as a speaker for a ladies’ retreat on the district. I regard all of these as wonderful opportunities to serve the Lord and am honored to be invited. I look forward to visiting more of the churches this coming year and getting to know more of you as a result.

Missionary Visits

We had a visit from Pastor Eric Smith and David and Sylvia Potter this year on the district. Thank you for inviting them to your church and thank you to the Area Coordinators for organizing events and activities for the various areas around the district. Please keep praying for these and other missionaries we support.



<https://asiapacnazarene.org/missionary-profiles/david-and-sylvia-potter/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://asiapacnazarene.org/missionary-profiles/david-and-sylvia-potter/>. The page header includes the Church of the Nazarene Asia-Pacific logo and a navigation menu with items like 'WHO WE ARE', 'FIELDS', 'MINISTRIES', 'NEWS & UPDATES', 'EVENTS', 'RESOURCES', 'SEND ME', and 'GIVE'. A banner for the 'WORLD EVANGELISM FUND' is also visible. The main content area features a photo of David and Sylvia Potter, a 'Deployment: Global Missionary' tag, and their country 'Vanuatu'. The text describes their work as missionaries in Vanuatu, their education, and their family.

[Eric Smith, Church in Action, Germany](#)

The screenshot shows an email client interface with an email from Eric Smith. The email subject is 'Welcome in Germany' and the body text reads: 'Hi Friends, First off I want to THANK YOU for all your prayers and support as we do our best to serve those who are still fleeing the atrocious war in Ukraine. Although we continue to be in close contact with our partners in and near Ukraine, we have shifted the majority of our efforts as mentioned last time, to serving the many people that have arrived and are arriving, right in front of our door steps in Germany. I would like to share a few highlights of how WE together are making an impact: I mentioned in the last update that a hotel near our office in Frankfurt had taken in around 150 Ukrainian refugees. Good News. We were able to pack and hand over enough "Welcome (hygiene & food) Packages" for all the families. The man'.



Moving forward

Our goal this year is to increase regular communication through our Area Coordinators as well as all our leaders and our Missions Administrator using our social media sites. I hope we can share more information more regularly throughout the year so that you can be keep informed about all the activities and opportunities well in advance.

We have a growing media team, and we are excited about that. We now have a Youth Media Coordinator who has joined our team:



Jacob Pollard from our Paulding church had volunteered to become our Youth Media Coordinator for our District Missions and we are excited to welcome Jacob on board. We will have all of our media team listed on our website so you can see our full team of everyone who helps with our media work.

Please stay tuned into our Facebook and web page and encourage your youth to connect with the new youth-oriented platforms that Jacob will introduce to keep up with our communication and updates on what is going on. On our webpage, we will have a new section that will cover our Action projects that churches will start sending to us of what is going on in their communities and how they are serving the Lord locally as well as beyond. At next year's convention, I hope we will have videos of Action projects as well as our other videos to share throughout the Gathering sessions.

We serve a Savior who loves the entire world and does not prefer anyone over any other. Every soul matters to God and the Lord wants us to reach out to everyone in His name. Let stay active in our service for the Lord!