
NWO District NMI President's Report – June 2024

<http://www.nwonaz.org/missions/>

Our Vision

On the other side – John 21:6

6 Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get some!" So, they did, and they couldn't haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

When we read the entire chapter, we realize a lot was going on in the minds and hearts of the disciples. The death and resurrection of Christ was very difficult and challenging for them to process. So, **let's go back to what we do know, and let's getting fishing again!** We understand that and often do that as humans trying to follow Christ. We get confused, frustrated and discouraged and then we just go back to what is familiar to find comfort and peace. Then Jesus appears to them while they are fishing, and they were not catching fish even though they knew all about this fishing thing – and Jesus changes everything forever!! **Try the other side of the boat!** These were seasoned fishermen and were doing what they knew best – Jesus appears and challenges them to do it differently and wow! What a catch!

Our mission theme this year is, "Try the other side," and the challenge is to realize that whatever we do, the focus must remain to share Jesus and see lives changed forever. While we have many changes in our world today and we have the world right here in the US, let's change things up and try new ways to share Jesus – let's try the other side! I encourage us all to not politicize the Gospel and who we talk Jesus to and let's not get frustrated and angry with the social and moral challenges around us. Let's try the other side of the boat! Let's ask Jesus to show us how to reach everyone with the Good News and let's remember that everyone, everywhere needs Jesus. Missions does not only refer to international projects, but also right here on our doorstep, so right where we are, let's try the other side and reach out for Jesus!

Our Team

Here are those who work together for NMI here on NOW District:

- Ruth Reynard – District NMI President / Mission Catalyst ruthreynard@gmail.com
- Nancy Dunson – District NMI Administrator nwomissions@gmail.com
- Lauren Spyker Biggs – NMI District Vice President lauren.spyker@gmail.com
- Larry Hammond – NWO District Treasurer lhammond@bright.net
- Marianne McBride – NMI Network Coordinator Lead Marianne.mcbride@yahoo.com
- Jacob Pollard - Media Lead - social media and online posts jacob.k.pollard@gmail.com
- Louis Reindel – Mission Teams Lead reindellouis@gmail.com
- Julie Pottinger – School Pal Paks and Crisis Care Kits jcpottenger@gmail.com

- Jennifer Brake – Compassionate Ministries Lead jenjedb@gmail.com
- Linda Ricker – Child Sponsorship ricker@ayersvilletelco.com
- Marsha Mangin – Synergy Coordinator Mjm032266@embarqmail.com
- Sue Spring – CLU Coordinator bSueSpring@yahoo.com
- Kevin Young – Toledo Coordinator young4evr1@gmail.com
- Sharon Ike – Miami Valley Coordinator dandsike@gmail.com
- Rachel Thomas – Council Member rachaelharpel@gmail.com
- Jon Spyker – Council Member jspyker54@gmail.com
- Deb Geis – Council Member geisd@bright.net

BigServe

This year we have joined Nazarene churches throughout the USA and Canada Region in reaching out to our communities in Jesus' name. We will continue to upload pictures and videos of projects on the NWO District webpage for BigServe on our NMI website. Thank you to everyone who participated. These truly were opportunities to reach out onto the other side and work on projects we do not normally work on to help our communities. Let's keep on -

Serving BIG throughout the year!

Other District Projects

Thank you to those who helped with the **Tornado Response** which was horrific and left so many in great need. We really appreciate those who responded immediately and those who continued to respond over the weeks and months after the tornados hit in various areas throughout Ohio. We continue to pray for those whose lives were deeply affected by the tornado disasters.

Thank you too for those who have responded to the **Dresses for Congo** project started by Esther Dooley. I believe our latest count for dresses that have been made for little girls in the Kinshasa area of the DR Congo is 526. I also have heard that some have decided to also make clothes for little boys. I have reached out to the Nazarene DS in the Kinshasa area and he and another ministry leader working with street kids in Kinshasa will be delivering the dresses and sending pictures back to our churches. Please reach out if you need the mailing address and details.

Thank you, DS Rev Nzla Dieu and Maman Ospy Nzigire for helping us with this project.

There are around 16 million people in the city of Kinshasa which is the capital of the DR Congo and more than half of those are younger than 22. There are various religions and sects there and also more than 200 ethnic African groups there. There is much poverty, and many children are bought and sold for horrible purposes. Many live on the streets so the need to share Jesus and to provide clothing and food and shelter is huge! Thank you for this response from our NWO District.

Thank you, too, for Rev. Louie's leadership in **Mission Team** projects over this year so far:

The team was at Rescue Hill in Arlington Texas from March 2-9. The team included Dan Kruse from Napoleon, Mike Gilbert, Rick Mullenhour and Pastor Eric Anderson from St Marys, Pastor Darryl Potts and his wife Amy from Spencerville, Mel Miller from Lima Community, Jennifer Harris, Kayla Mueller and Pastor Louie from SW District Grace Pointe Nazarene also participated. Thank you everyone! There will be pics and videos at our Convention in June, so please join us.

Refugee Project

Our convention special this year is focusing on a new NMI NWO District Project focusing on refugees here in OHIO.

Here are some statistics about refugees around the world provided by the United Nations:



(Click on the link or search the agency online for the stats)

Here are some worldwide stats:

108.4 million people worldwide are forcibly displaced.

As of the end of 2022

Source: [UNHCR Global Trends 2022](#), 14 June 2023

Most refugees – 76 per cent – are hosted by low- and middle-income countries.

Source: [UNHCR Global Trends 2022](#), 14 June 2023

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services states:

Ohio has welcomed refugees from many different countries around the world. They came from places like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, Eritrea, Afghanistan, and Burma. Most refugees in Ohio decided to live in five specific counties: Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Franklin (Columbus), Hamilton (Cincinnati), Montgomery (Dayton), and Summit (Akron). You can find reports that show which countries the refugees came from and how many arrived each year.

We are working with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries and World Relief to find the best ways to organize and fund mission outreach projects to these communities. Stay tuned!

Crisis Care Kits and Pal Paks

Thank you, Jullie Pottinger and Rev Jon Spyker, for your leadership over these projects and your focus on encouraging more churches to participate. We look forward to hearing more about your plans for the packing and distributing of these great resources for those struggling in this world.

ACTION Retreat

Thank you, Lauren, for your leadership of this retreat. We look forward to hearing more from you about our upcoming retreat this Fall. Following on from the various projects of BigServe, we know that you will have some

great projects lined up for us at this event as people from across the district, young and older, share together and work together on serving the Lord – nearby!

2024 NMI Convention at District Advance

During our convention this year, we will also hear from Linda Ricker regarding Child Sponsorship and Jennifer Brake about Compassionate Ministries – both will provide updates and information about our focuses this upcoming year. Thank you, to Jacob Pollard for his great work on our Social Media platforms to inform and encourage us all regarding our projects here in NWO and our Global Missions projects.

The NMI Council recommends the NMI nominations for the following positions:

NMI President: Ruth Reynard (Yes/No ballot)

NMI Vice President: Lauren Biggs (Yes/No ballot)

NMI Secretary: Nancy Dunson (Yes/No ballot)

NMI Treasurer: Larry Hammond (Yes/No ballot)

Moving Forward

It certainly is a wonderful privilege working together for the glory of the Lord and for the furthering of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. While the world has its problems and politics, Jesus continues to love every person and the message of Christ's forgiveness must be shared.

Thank you to all the NMI Council and to all of you in our churches in NWO District for your support of missions. As we focus on throwing our nets on the other side of the boat, let us know what God is doing in your community and how you feel you must respond. Please continue to support our district projects as well and let us keep reaching out for Jesus.

We hope to see many of you and share fellowship at the Gathering this year, the District Advance and at the NMI convention lunch. We will hear from many but also meet our new USA/Canada Region missionaries, Sam and Kristi Senica. We will also be sharing about our new mission focus to refugees here in Ohio.



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's stay active in our service for the Lord!