

THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH AROUND THE WORLD

World Mission Department

Reports in 2005 indicate that over 796 Nazarene missionaries and volunteers and more than 8,255 national pastors and workers in 151 world areas on six continents are proclaiming the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ through a preaching, teaching, and healing ministry. In these areas, there are over 9,044 organized churches plus hundreds of missions in 343 districts. More than 17,000 students are trained in 36 Bible colleges and numerous extension centers. Nazarenes give generously toward the World Evangelism Fund and Mission Specials to support this widespread missionary outreach.

Christian Education

The Church of the Nazarene, from its inception, has been committed to higher education. Throughout the world the church currently sponsors 57 institutions of higher education, including 11 liberal arts colleges, 2 graduate seminaries, 41 Bible colleges, 2 nursing schools, and a junior college. Numerous Theological Education by Extension centers, and elementary and secondary schools also offer instruction at various levels. In addition, Nazarene Student Fellowships are being established on many secular college and university campuses.

Christian Literature

The various departments of the church create literature for Sunday School training, training of laity and ministers, Bible study, personal spiritual growth, and social concerns. For over 90 years the Nazarene Publishing House has increasingly carried out its mission of providing "God's Word for Today's World" through Beacon Hill books, WordAction Sunday School curriculum, Lillenas music, and Barefoot Ministries.

World Mission Communications

Radio, television, and other emerging technologies such as the Internet, are invaluable tools the church uses in reaching the lost and discipling believers, especially in areas that do not benefit from easy access to the gospel.

The church currently broadcasts radio programs into nearly 100 countries in over thirty-three languages and dialects. Television is also being successfully used in a growing number of world areas, and ministries delivered over the Internet have opened new doors of evangelism.

A global network of communication centers, staffed by Nazarene media professionals, dedicated to the task of making disciples, proclaims the message of hope in Jesus Christ.

WELCOME
to the
CHURCH
of the
NAZARENE



A SPIRITUAL HOME
WHERE YOU CAN
ENCOUNTER GOD...

A faith-community energized by God's Spirit . . .

The history of the Christian Church has been marked by successive periods of renewal. During one such period in England, God inspired a young Church of England priest with a vision of His grace extended to all humankind. Working with people from all walks of life, the Rev. John Wesley founded a spiritual renewal movement. Spreading rapidly throughout England, it leaped the boundaries of class and geographical limitations. In the New World, this radically optimistic spirit of God's love and grace took various shapes and forms. In October of 1908 the Church of the Nazarene was established as the result of widely diverse groups bonding in an environment of joyful praise, compassionate concern, and interest in spreading this dynamic, life-changing message. With 228 congregations comprising 10,414 members, the Church of the Nazarene took its place in the family of Christian denominations.

Keeping the faith for a changing world . . .

Years quickly turn into decades, and decades mass to form centuries. On the threshold of its centennial, the Church of the Nazarene has participated in a century of incredible change. With an indomitable spirit of optimism, Nazarenes ventured to every region of our planet with a twofold vision:

A changing world is still filled with unchanging needs. The response to human need and spiritual hunger has been driven by a vision consistent with the biblical message of God's grace and compassion for humankind in Jesus Christ.

God's offer to humankind in Jesus Christ, His Son, is radical freedom and transformation. Unencumbered by politically-driven panaceas, Nazarenes joyfully proclaimed forgiveness from all sin, along with the possibility of newly transformed individuals living in a community of worship, service, and proclamation. Here, they could experience the transformational power of God's Spirit in the deepest recesses of human personality in the community of faith.

Next door and down the freeway . . .

A message so dramatic as this cannot be limited to, or contained within the narrow confines of sectarian isolation. Using every available tool, Nazarenes have proclaimed God's peace and reconciliation, along with His radical power to effect transformation in every aspect of human existence. Congregations of the Church of the Nazarene are located in every state in the USA, every province in Canada, and in nearly 151 world areas.

While a global focus is essential to fulfilling the command of Jesus Christ to, "go into all the world," the heart of our shared life together is really at the congregational level. Here you will find that characteristic warmth that finds joy and happiness in God's acceptance of us in Christ Jesus, our Lord! A believer's church is a congregation or denomination that is marked by these characteristics:

A deep, abiding appreciation for the universal Church, the Body of Christ that has a linear succession down through history.

Recognition that participation in the Body of Christ does not immerse one into a faceless sameness. Here we are free to worship God and serve Him according to His direction and leadership as expressed in those timeless traditions we have mutually accepted.

Acceptance of both corporate and personal responsibility for compassionate service and ministry to one's world in the name of Jesus.

Emphasis on the full spectrum of needs represented in a spiritual community of faith, e.g. families, children, singles, gender-specific ministries, etc. Here you will find many "ports of entry."

Finding your place in this family . . .

At the heart of Nazarene congregations you will find an emphasis on the individual. Obviously, we gather at the table of our Lord as a body . . . we administer the sacrament of Christian baptism, marking those who by faith have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, as members of the Body of Christ. Our recognition of the person, however, means addressing educational needs, equipping for service and personal ministry, engaging spiritual gifts and graces.

You will find a Sunday School class, a Bible study group, a missions group, or a service/ministry opportunity that fits you, your needs, and your interests. You will discover global venues of service opportunities that will challenge you. You will be linked to faithful people who have promised to care about you. You will be nurtured through joyful praise and worship and the proclamation of God's Word.

To learn more about the Church of the Nazarene, why not check out our web site: <http://www.nazarene.org>

THE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE in your neighborhood

The Church of the Nazarene is located in over 5,500 neighborhoods across North America. The buildings reflect almost every architectural style and time period; some boast soaring colonial spires, while others are boldly contemporary, and still others are purely functional. Whatever may be on the outside of the building, there are common denominators inside every Nazarene congregation—most of which have to do with relationships. For instance . . .

A warm fellowship is one of the distinguishing characteristics of a Nazarene congregation.

Because of that you can usually expect:

- A friendly sense of community and care for families, singles, newlyweds, senior citizens, young children, teens, and all ages between
- A concern for families expressed in social activities, service opportunities, learning situations, and worship experiences
- Participation in ministry through Sunday School, men's and women's organizations, youth and children's programs

Spiritual nurture is the church's most basic responsibility. In a Church of the Nazarene this nurture will be expressed by:

- Pastoral counseling and prayer meetings
- Special times of evangelism and outreach
- Opportunities for times of public commitment and prayer at the altar
- Participation in the sacraments, both baptism and Communion
- Graded study programs like Sunday School and Bible study groups
- Retreats for teens through adults
- Providing opportunity for ministry