General Convention- 2013, Hyderabad, INDIA

‘Honor God with everything you own; give him the first and the best.’ Proverbs 3:9

JOYCE SIMON JOTHI
Opportunity Unlimited
John 6: 1-12
I. Our number standards

• Phillip plays with numbers as an excuse
• Phillip proposes difficulty to the God of possibilities
• Phillip fails to realize the potential in Jesus
II. Our partial standards.

- Andrew has idea partially
- Andrew sought partial possibility with doubts
- Andrew found solutions with limited focus
III. God’s possibility standards:

- God seeks our willingness to share
- God appreciates our little (God’s standard is not how much we give, but our attitude of giving)
At this Convention, we can see NMI serves every local Church which has been willing to give time and skills to make this event possible for people from all over Europe. That is an example of giving and participating in the global church.

In order to make disciples in all the nations and to take the gospel to where the church is not yet, it will require some resources. It requires, people, money, talents, time, and energy. God will use the resources that we are willing to give to him in accomplishing his mission.

http://medialibrary.nazarene.org/media/petethesheep
The Church of the Nazarene established the World Evangelism Fund many decades ago for financial needs to take the gospel to where the church has not yet entered.

The World Evangelism Fund has allowed the Church of the Nazarene to start work in 159 world areas, to send people as missionaries from many different countries to other countries, provide literature in 93 different languages (PPT SLIDE), and train and ordain over 17,000 ministers for 28,000 Nazarene congregations. 737 missionaries and 177 missionary kids were deployed from 40 world areas in 2011 (including 342 Mission Corps volunteers).

Churches in global mission areas numbered 27,524 churches (an increase of 4.4%) with 2.14 million members (an increase of 3.7%) in those areas.

444 districts have been established around the world with 25,629 clergy.


http://medialibrary.nazarene.org/media/because-you-give
Video 2
There are two primary ways to give for World Evangelism

EASTER OFFERING
THANKSGIVING OFFERING
These are the Easter Offering given on or around Easter, and the Thanksgiving Offering given sometime in the fall.

- Announced for three weeks in advance
- Offering to international mission
- Different containers
- Coins are dropped into the container

Easter Offering
- Offerings sent to the Global office
- Share stories through the support of the WEF
- 2nurses training colleges, and 1 education college had a 2011 combined enrollment of 49,547 students globally.
- People were treated at more than 60 medical clinics and hospitals and thousands of compassionate ministry centers.
- 337 retired missionaries received pensions.
It is an example that I read in the online Engage Magazine. Engage constantly publishes mission’s stories. The Church of the Nazarene has a hospital in Papua New Guinea. The Kudjip Nazarene Hospital was started in 1967. It has 130 beds and is the only major hospital in the Jawaka Province. 150 people work there and served 62,000 patients last year! But besides treating people’s physical needs, they pray with every patient and hundreds of people accept Christ each year.

By World Evangelism Fund giving, this man’s life was saved, both physically and spiritually.

http://engagemagazine.com/print/287
NMI promotes  
NCM facilitates project  
Support Nazarene based projects  
Furthering the gospel, disciplining believers  
Partnering with local Nazarene Churches  
Providing opportunities for women, child sponsorship  
Giving to disaster relief  
Offer hope for their spiritual and physical condition  
At development centers  
Contributing to the reconciliation and restoration of the world  
NMI partnered with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries to give more than US $1.5 million for disaster response, to support 10,370 children through Child Development. Churches sent 47,598 Crisis Care Kits to Haiti, Moldova, Pakistan, and United States and 6,600 School Pal-Paks to Haiti, Moldova, Ukraine and United States.
ALABATER
Given for Church Building
- Intent Share gospel
- Make Disciples
- Growth of believers
- Collected on Alabaster Sunday
- Offering sent to the global Alabaster Fund.
- This money is used to purchase of properties Church building to reach others for Christ.
- Churches in global mission areas numbered 27,524 churches (an increase of 4.4%) with 2.14 million Members (an increase of 3.7%) in those areas.
- 444 districts have been established around the world with 25,629 clergy.
- 5 graduate seminaries, 33 undergraduate Bible/theological colleges, 13 liberal arts institutions
Video 5

http://medialibrary.nazarene.org/media/alabaster-building-lives
Personnel involvement
Local church can participate
Takes a significant amount of
Long-term partnership
Different place and people
They desire to pray
These relationships continue
Young people testify
NMI assisted Work & Witness in raising US $1,635,822 to deploy 758 teams, an average of 15 teams per week. 10,376 participants donated more than 286 years of labor.
Supported either directly or indirectly by World Evangelism Fund
So these are several ways that people can give to missions:

- The World Evangelism Fund through the Easter and Thanksgiving Offerings.
- Giving to specific needs, causes, or projects through NCM. These include the 2 projects I introduced (disaster relief, HIV/AIDS ministry), as well as others that I mentioned such as clean water wells, child sponsorship, microenterprise opportunities for women, and many more that I didn’t mention.
- Alabaster offering for ministry buildings and properties.
- Work and Witness Teams
Discuss in small groups:

- What needs to be given in order to make disciples in all the nations and take the gospel to where the church is not yet?
- In what ways has your local church given to missions?
- Are there some ways you would like to see your church participating in giving?
- What are some creative ways to promote it to the congregation, so that they might want to get involved?