

Skit: Which Offering is More Important?
By Ingrid Boudewijn and Heidi Bowes

Local NMI President walks to the front (*inconspicuously carrying a promotional handout – a flier, bulletin insert, or we use bookmarks, which include the facts of what WEF supports*)
(As NMI President nearly gets to the front, person #2, sitting some distance away stands up and calls to her, then runs toward her very excited, while holding an envelope with something inside and the most recent annual NMI church report)

Person #2: [Insert name of NMI President], hello! Hello!

NMI Pres: [Insert name of Person #2], hello! It's great to see you!

Person #2: Yes, it's so good to see you again too!

NMI Pres: It's been a long time!

Person #2: I just read your NMI report (*holding out the report and pointing to it*), and I saw that our church gave €_____ to help the flood victims in Pakistan last year! (*Insert any mission special or NCM offering your church supported*)

NMI Pres: Yes, our church wanted to help the people in Pakistan who had been displaced and lost everything in the floods.

Person #2: That is great! And I read in the report that our church also gave €_____ to help the refugee children in Sri Lanka! (*Same as above, select another special offering your church gave for others.*)

NMI Pres: Yes, our church knew of the many families who had to leave their homes because of the war and fighting in that country. We wanted to help the children, and in a practical way demonstrate God's love to them.

Person #2: That is a wonderful and practical way to demonstrate God's love to people – even when they are so far away!

NMI Pres: Yes, that is a wonderful demonstration of compassion. (*Becoming more excited.*) And did you also read in the report that our church gave €_____ to the World Evangelism Fund last year?

Person #2: (*Looks a little confused and unimpressed.*) Well, yes. So? (*shrugs shoulders*)

NMI Pres: (*Shocked*) So?!?! (*Turning away from Person #2 and saying to the congregation*) She must not understand what the World Evangelism Fund is for. (*Turning back to Person #2*) Do you not know what the World Evangelism Fund is for?

Person #2: (*Pausing to think for a couple seconds.*) Well, uh, no. What is the purpose of the World Evangelism Fund?

NMI Pres: A missionary is sent to places to share the message of the gospel. The missionary begins by making contacts, learning the ways of the local area, and building relationships. Sometimes it takes a long time to build trust in the relationships before people are ready to listen to the gospel message. Often the missionary uses the Jesus Film or other media tools to share the message in various ways.

Person #2: Yes. (*nodding*)

NMI Pres: Then, once people accept Christ, they are often led in discipleship courses. This must take place in the local language. Bible studies or small groups begin and people will often meet together in homes or outside under a tree. Eventually they will begin to hold a worship service and meet regularly, forming a preaching point. As more and more people come to know Christ, a new church will be started.

Person #2: Ohhh.

NMI Pres: Look here. (*showing the bookmark or insert*) The World Evangelism Fund supports over 700 missionaries and volunteers.

Person #2: 700!!!! That's lot of people!! (*overwhelmed*)

NMI Pres: Yes, that certainly is a lot of people. But that's not all. It also supports more than 140 radio, television, and internet programs which are shown in 72 countries in 36 different languages.

Person #2: Wow!! 72 countries! That's nearly half the world!! (*waving arms*)

NMI Pres: Yes, that is significant. And that's not all. It also helped nearly 9000 people to give 600,000 hours of work on over 500 Work and Witness teams last year to help build buildings, serve on medical teams, and minister in other ways.

Person #2: That's a lot of work!!

NMI Pres: Yes, that is a lot of work! It also provided the organizational means for sending aid to the people who suffered from the natural disasters and catastrophes.

Person #2: Wait! Wait! Wait! (*waving arms and very focused*) Do you mean this World Evangelism Fund helps people come to know Jesus?

NMI Pres: Yes, that's right. It is used to help bring the gospel to people in many different ways.

Person #2: And this World Evangelism Fund also helps them grow in their faith?

NMI Pres: Yes, that's right, through literature in different languages, discipleship classes, Bible studies, and many other ways.

Person #2: And this World Evangelism Fund also helps to start new churches?

NMI Pres: Yes, that is correct. It helps both to plant and organize new churches.

Person #2: And this World Evangelism Fund also helps to deliver emergency aid to people when there are these horrible disasters around the world?

NMI Pres: Yes, that is right. When there are already churches in the country, we already have contacts who can help deliver aid to the most urgent needs. If we didn't have an organized delivery system and contacts there, how could we send financial or practical assistance?

Person #2: Wow! (*looking very serious and contemplative*) The World Evangelism Fund Offering is really important!

NMI Pres: Yes, it is very important. But you look bothered by something. Is there something that you don't understand? Why do you have such a serious look on your face?

Person #2: Well, I brought an envelope with me. (*Holds up the blank envelope*) After reading in your report about what our church did to help people suffering in terrible situations, I wanted to help too. I also wanted to give something to an emergency relief project to show God's love to them. But now, I hear how important the World Evangelism Fund is and I don't know which offering I should give to. Which is more important? (*looking at NMI President for the answer*)

NMI Pres: Both offerings are important. God uses both of them to bring people to him. Emergency relief delivers practical aid, and when our church is already established and respected locally, immediate responses during emergencies are possible. But I would suggest that you take some time and talk to God about it. Ask him what he would like for you to do. Then, two weeks from now, we will give our Easter Offering, to the World Evangelism Fund and you can do what he tells you.

Person #2: Yes, that's a good idea. I'm sure he will tell me what would be best when I ask him, and he will bless it.

NMI Pres: After church we will be handing out these bookmarks [or fliers] for everyone to take one. They serve as a reminder to us about what the World Evangelism Fund supports, and for us to remember to pray about what God would have us to give.

Person #2: Great! Then I can take one too!

NMI Pres: Absolutely. And I hope to get to see you again on Easter Sunday.

Person #2: Oh yes! And this year I can wish you a Happy Easter!