

## Missions Splash – May 2014



### **Kings, Prophets, and Mission - Elisha**

Read: 2 Kings 4:1-7.

In verse 1, this widow faced economic disaster in addition to grieving the loss of her husband. According to Israelite law, people could sell themselves or members of their family into slavery to pay off a debt. The Hebrew slave would be set free and released from any remaining debt in the seventh year of their slavery. Some specific human rights of the slave were included in the law. This emergency and temporary economic solution reflected the Hebrew history of once having been enslaved in Egypt and redeemed by God with compassion as his valued and chosen people (Exodus 21:1-11; Deuteronomy 15:1-18 and 23:12; Jeremiah 34:14).

The prophet Elisha responded to the desperate and destitute widow with compassion, dignity, and respect. He did not immediately give her a bag of money. Instead, he asked a question, acknowledging she may already have the key to the solution in her possession. He listened to hear how God was already working in this woman's life through what God had provided.

- When you see someone's daily needs are not being met, how do you respond? What responses to poverty have you seen and what messages have these communicated to the impoverished person? What responses communicate God's love, compassion, respect, and value to someone today who is unable to meet his/her basic needs?
- In verse 2, the woman facing tremendous uncertainty for herself and her family was unable to recognize what she had as something that God could bless and use. Stop and consider what God has provided for you, materially and otherwise. How has God used these things to bless you? How does God want to bless others with these things?
- Most forms of modern economic slavery are destructive to the human being. Some examples are various forms of abuse, prostitution, selling human body organs, homelessness, human trafficking, child abandonment, and child labor. In what ways is your church addressing systemic evils locally and in other countries? How can you replace these evils with redemptive and restorative systems that reflect God and his mission?

### **Missions News for Your Church**

"When people live in poverty, you cannot force them to be happy. Even though you can at least try in the moment to make them happy, when you leave them in the same place, for them, everything is dark," said Anna Artsrunyan in Armenia. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Foods Resource Bank, local Nazarene churches, and communities are working together to empower them with "A Reason to Stay" in their community in [NCM Magazine](#), pages 4-6.

"When local NCM workers learned why Malathi and her brother were arriving late [to school], they realized another solution was needed to salvage the village from poverty, disease, and educational barriers." Read how local resources are being used in Sri Lanka in [NCM Magazine](#), pages 27-30.

God multiplied and blessed the gifts abundantly for those who needed them in a "fish and loaves type miracle". Read the story in [Engage Magazine](#).

### **Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents**

Purchasing a chicken or a sheep for a family in Armenia, or supporting a Sri Lanka water well project are three of the many projects available for adoption as part of the [NMI 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#). Districts can choose to partner in ministry and join the celebration with any of the projects remaining.

The 2014 '[Fast Facts](#)' about Nazarene missions are available for sharing with the congregation.

The World Mission Broadcast ministry shares the gospel via radio (as in [Radio Vaovoa Mahosoa and Subha-Ki-Aradhana](#)), TV (as in [Ask Me About Jesus](#)), and the internet. Share about the ministry with your congregation and ask them to pray for it or give to sponsor a program.