

Missions Splash – August 2011



The Mosaic Covenant, the People of Israel, and Mission – Part 2, The Nations

Read: Exodus 19:3-6; Exod. 33:14-16; Exod. 34:10; Leviticus 20:22-26; Lev. 26:11-13; Numbers 15:14-16; Deuteronomy 4:5-8; Deut. 7:6-9; Deut. 12:29-31; Deut. 26:16-19; Deut. 28:1; Deut. 28:9-10.

There are two main groups of people identified in these scripture texts: the people of Israel, and “the nations.” The people of Israel were set apart by God to be his holy people and treasured possession. By entering into the Mosaic covenant, they received his blessings and the accompanying responsibilities.

The nations are the second main group of people. As with the covenant made with Abraham, the Mosaic covenant had a purpose beyond the relationship between God and the people of Israel. The purpose included “all peoples on earth” (Deut. 28:9-10). The nations would see the presence of the Lord dwelling among the nation of Israel, the awesome work of the Lord, and a righteous and just society. The people of Israel were to be the example, or showcase nation, to the rest of earth’s human population. As the people of Israel worshiped God alone, the nations would also have the opportunity to know who the Lord is, be redeemed, and be made holy. If people from the nations wanted to permanently live among them and become holy, God would accept them with the same responsibilities as those with a Hebrew origin.

- What kinds of blessings and responsibilities accompany the Mosaic covenant?
- What do these verses tell us about God’s mission?
- In considering God’s mission and purpose, is there any people group that is more important than the others? Why?
- What blessings and responsibilities accompany followers of Jesus?
- What is my responsibility to the nations? What is our church’s responsibility to the nations?

Missions News for Your Church

Tiambo and his friends are examples of [Children Reaching Souls for Christ](#) in Togo. Read the article in *Engage*.

From the Rhythm of Hope radio broadcast in Mindanao, Philippines, a high school student heard about the Church of the Nazarene and later accepted Christ. His witness led his father, the village chief and priest in witchcraft, to Christ. Watch the video on the [Asia-Pacific Nazarene Vimeo](#) site.

The Port-au-Prince Tabarre Church of the Nazarene in Haiti places a higher priority on mission and bringing Christ to others than having a church building to meet in themselves. Read the story called “Receiving: God’s Mission Heart” on pages 1-2 in this [Living Mission freebie](#). Other Alabaster stories from the United Kingdom, the Solomon Islands, and Benin are found there as well. Information about the [Alabaster Offering](#) and [promotional ideas](#) are found at these websites.

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

There is drought and famine in the Horn of Africa and flooding in Bangladesh, both causing deaths and the displacement of people. Information about Nazarene assistance for people affected by the [Bangladesh floods](#) and the [Hunger in Africa](#) and [famine relief](#) are at NCNnews.org and NCM.org.

Prayer is crucial for our personal relationship with God and for global missions. Consider some new ways to “[Help Prayer Become Natural](#),” to accept a “[Prayer Challenge](#),” and to “[Become a Praying Church](#)” for missions.

The [Global Mission DVD Archive](#) contains all Global Mission DVDs since 2003 and is available online for viewing and downloads. Use these videos for promoting missions involvement in a service, small group meeting, Sunday School, or individual viewing.

LINKS is a way for churches to be connected or personally “linked” with a missionary. In this story, several local churches were able to give a Links Blessing to an island congregation in a very practical way. Read “[LINKS Blessing](#)” on page 15 in *Mission Connection*.