

Missions Splash – September 2011



The Whole Creation and Mission

Read: Genesis 1:1-31; Genesis 3:13-19; Leviticus 25:23-24; Psalm 98:4-9; Hosea 4:1-3; Romans 8:19-25; Colossians 1:15-23.

After creating them, God looked and saw that each part of creation was good (Gen. 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). As he looked at everything together as a whole, he saw “it was very good” (Gen. 1:31). Human beings were given the responsibility to tend, care for, and exercise dominion over the rest of creation, not to own or exploit. In the physical setting of earth, surrounded and supported by the other non-human parts of God’s creation, humans can learn who their Creator is and about his character; we learn about relationship; and we can mirror God’s image as we exercise dominion. Within this physical context which provides the essentials of human life for us, we learn love, humility, integrity, perseverance, endurance, joy, faithfulness, repentance, redemption, and hope. When humans sin against God and against each other, the rest of creation suffers with them, as it was with the original sin. Just as believers in Christ look forward to his return, so too does the rest of the creation as it hopes and yearns for complete restoration to fully worship the Creator in “a new heaven and a new earth” (Rev. 21:1)

- What do these scripture passages tell us about the mission of God?
- What role do the non-human elements of creation have for human beings in God’s mission? What role do human beings have for the non-human elements of creation in God’s mission? How would you describe the relationship between the human and non-human elements of creation?
- Read Psalm 145:8-21. What character traits of God are described in these verses that humans, who are made in God’s image, should mirror or imitate as they exercise dominion over the rest of creation?
- How does this influence choices we make concerning the non-human elements of creation?
- How can I participate with God in the restoration of the non-human creation?

Missions News for Your Church

By helping to ensure that people have their daily essential need of water available in Haiti, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Swaziland, the Middle East, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe, lives are being transformed physically, spiritually, socially, economically, and mentally. Read about it in the Summer 2011 [NCM Magazine](#).

“The Lord’s blessings, . . . are proof of how amazing and mysterious are the ways of the Lord.” Read how “God Provides Living Water in Baad” (Senegal) in [NCN News](#).

“Our first Sunday School class with some of these new Christians was scheduled to start at 8:30, but this was an emergency. Part of living life alongside our young brothers and sisters means being available to them in moments of crisis. So, we rushed off to Ruth’s side.” God worked so that there are “No More Witch Doctors for this Family” in Peru. Read the rest in [Engage](#).

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

The Thanksgiving Offering is given for the World Evangelism Fund (WEF) for spreading the gospel message to the ends of the earth. An NMI district president and General Board member in the United States wrote an email to the other North American district presidents in March. Included are several current facts about Nazarene missions and the WEF, spiritual victories, and financial challenges of which we share a part. Read his email here on pages 2-4 in [Heartline](#). For promotional offering ideas, visit the [Eurasia Region - NMI website](#), the [Global NMI website](#), this year’s [Harvest 2011 website](#), and the [Facebook Harvest 2011 wall](#).

“Mission, Missions, and Missional?” These are [Mission Essentials](#) you don’t want to miss!

NMI Conventions will begin this year on the region soon. [Online training](#) for preparing conventions is available with district president login. Global NMI video greetings are available as a [6 minute version](#) and a [4 minute version](#) for download; printed greetings from the Global NMI President and Director are available with login [here](#). Remember to vote for delegates to the Global NMI Convention to take place June, 2013.