

Missions Splash – October/November 2011



Humans, the Original Sin, and Mission

Read: Genesis 1:26-31; Genesis 2:7-9; Genesis 2:15-3:24.

God created one part of his creation in his image and full of his breath. Human beings were given the capacity to create, to make decisions, to think, to love, to have relationships, and have dominion over the rest of creation. This included the choice to obey or disobey God's command to avoid eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Disobedience damaged God's entire creation. The relationship between the Creator and his creation was distorted; humans had tried to become like or equal to God, rejecting the Creator and what they had been created to be. The relationship between humans was distorted; guilt, blame, and distrust were present. The relationship between humans and the rest of creation was distorted; abuse and death had entered the world, followed by God's curse. The only one who could redeem this catastrophe and restore the creation was the Creator himself.

- According to these scripture readings, how would you describe the mission of God?
- Read 1 Peter 1:18-20. According to the text, the triune God knew that Jesus would come to die on earth to redeem a fallen world *before* God created it! What character qualities of God do these passages in Genesis and 1 Peter reveal to us?
- Would you consider God to be the first missionary? Why or why not?
- Consider the responses of Adam and Eve, and of God, after sin. In what ways are these responses similar or different today?
- Whom do you know who needs to hear God calling to them saying, "Where are you?"

Missions News for Your Church

In Tanzania, "David heard a voice from his small, old radio receiver saying '*There is One who cares and loves those who are unlovable and lonely.*'" Read "Is it Really Worth It?" in [World Mission Broadcast's Transmission](#).

Two local churches in two different nations are reaching out together to bring the love of Christ to people. Read "Church in Korea Partners with Bangladesh to Build Village for Widows and Orphans" on the [Eurasia Region website](#).

Through a Ghanaian Nazarene pastor's friendship and hospitality, discipleship and pastoral training, and an American university student mission team's willingness to serve and generosity, the effects of the Liberian civil war are being reversed in Philip's life. Read how he found "The Joy Jesus Gives" in [Engage](#).

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

Workshop presentations given in October during the regional NMI Track are available and can be found on the [Eurasia NMI webpages](#).

The 2011 International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church is Sunday, November 6 (UK, Italy) or November 13 (USA, Germany). A [World Watch List](#) that highlights the situations of Christians in 50 countries is available to inform our prayers. Encourage your church to remember Christians who are persecuted for their faith year round and especially on this Sunday. More resources are available at the [Global NMI website](#), [IDOP.org](#) (testimonies and children's material available), [OpenDoors.org](#) (in many languages), and in this [prayer guide](#).

Approximately 700 Nazarene missionaries are serving in various places around the world. Several of their stories can be found online in Engage Magazine under the "[Life](#)" tab or by doing a searching for "Missionary Profile" at www.Engagemagazine.com. The [Nazarene Missionary Profile](#) online catalog provides introductions to many Nazarene missionaries currently serving.