

Missions Splash – November/December 2011



Outside of Eden and Mission

Read: Genesis 4:1-26; Genesis 6:1-7:12; 8:13-9:17.

These passages contain the first recorded encounters between human beings and God outside the Garden of Eden. In chapter four, there are alternating accounts of human sin (4:3-5; 4:8-10; 4:23-24) and God's actions of grace, judgment or justice, provision, and salvation (4:6-7; 4:11-15; 4:25). A similar alternating pattern is found in chapter six of human sin (6:1-2; 6:4-5; 6:11-12) and God's actions of grace, judgment, provision, and salvation (6:3; 6:6-9; 6:13-8:19). Even when God was "grieved to his heart" and "sorry" that he made us, God still acted in the same way (6:6-7). In spite of our rebellion and his pain, his love for humans, who were created in God's image, is demonstrated as he allowed the human race to survive (4:25; 5:1-2; 6:8-9; 7:1; 8:21; 9:1; 9:5-6). By sparing Noah and his family, all of humanity experienced physical salvation. This did not eliminate sin or its consequences. Because God is just, sooner or later judgment against sin comes even in the midst of his love. He has been faithful in his promise to limit his judgment method in never destroying all life with water again.

- What is the ultimate consequence of all sin?
- Reread Genesis 4:13-16, 6:5-8, and 6:11-14, as well as 2 Peter 3:3-9. According to these passages, why hasn't God already given up on a world filled with sin and wiped us out? What is God's mission in light of these verses?
- With the examples of humanity's physical salvation from extinction and God's faithfulness to his promise symbolized with the rainbow, how would you describe his commitment to the mission of spiritual salvation and reconciliation of humanity?
- Think of situations in our world today where it seems sin is out of control. In what ways do you see God's grace and salvation in action?
- If God responds to us with grace, judgment or justice, provision, and salvation, as we join God in his mission, what should our attitude and response be to the wicked around us? How can we do this?

Missions News for Your Church

"Had I gotten so caught up in materialism that I had forgotten to pray for all the people to whom I had given gifts this past Christmas?" Read "We Prayed for Them" from a missionary in Papua New Guinea on the last page of [Mission Connection](#).

Nazarenes are making a difference for 500 families in the Horn of Africa famine, including 2000 children. An NCM Inc. consultant asked a Kenyan refugee camp case worker, "Just how bad is it really for the children?" Omar's story gives us a glimpse in [Engage Magazine](#).

Beni has a new life in Romania thanks to those who sponsor through the Nazarene Child Sponsorship Program. Watch "Beni's Story" on the [Nazarene Media Library](#) or on the 2011 Volume 3 Global Mission DVD.

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

More presentations from the NMI Track workshops were added to the [Eurasia NMI web page](#). These include helps for preparing a District NMI Convention.

Following the example of Jesus, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries partners with local Nazarene congregations around the world to clothe, shelter, feed, heal, educate, and live in solidarity with those who suffer under oppression, injustice, violence, poverty, hunger, and disease. NCM exists in and through the Church to proclaim the gospel to all people. Learn about needs and projects at www.ncm.org or in the [2012 NCM Giving Catalog](#). Financial donations for NCM projects can be given through the local church, district, and regional finance systems by labeling the amount given with the corresponding project ACM number. The free [NCM Giving Calendar](#) features a different opportunity to pray or give each day in December. An [NCM Gift Card](#) is something the giver purchases with a credit card for an amount they choose; the recipient receives the gift card and chooses the cause or project to which the amount of the card will be given.