

## Missions Splash – January 2012



### **Babel and Mission**

Read: Genesis 11:1-9; Acts 2:1-11; Revelation 21:1-8; Revelation 21:22-27.

In Babel, motivations of self-glorifying arrogance and fear of insecurity and isolation prompted the building of a tower. Instead of trusting in God for his provision, they chose to “play god” or become like God, as in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:5, 3:22). Ironically, instead of accomplishing their goals, their idolatry resulted in more of what they wanted to avoid: no reason for racial arrogance or self-glorification, the lack of security from the inability to clearly communicate, and isolation from scattering. God divided the nations in physical proximity and understanding. He held true to his promise in Genesis 9:15 not to destroy humanity and the rest of creation when judging sin and while continuing his mission of redemption and restoration.

The effects of sin began to be reversed at Pentecost. By the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Jews “from every nation under heaven” came together; they understood what the Galileans were saying in their own language; and God was glorified (Acts 2:5-6, 11, 41). This reversal will be complete when God’s mission is accomplished with a new heaven and a new earth. Diverse nations will gather together as one in Christ; there will be no fear, mourning, crying, death, or pain; the God of all knowledge will live among them thereby eliminating confusion; and he will be glorified on his throne with the Lamb (Rev. 21:3-6, 21:22-27).

- Conflict, division, and misunderstanding between nations is a regular part of our world. What examples are there of people from different nations gathering together in a non-exclusive manner as one in Christ?
- What attitudes, behavior, systems, or structures contribute to continuing division in our society today? What contributes to unity while embracing diversity today?
- According to Rev. 21:26, “People will bring into it the glory and honor of the nations.” How can the uniqueness and splendor of different cultures and nationalities glorify God within our local church congregation now? Our district? Field? Region? Global church? How can the various Christian denominations and traditions that profess Jesus as Lord in my community glorify God in unity?
- Is there anything that my local church or I should change to contribute more to God’s glorification and his mission being furthered?

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

Churches minister together across denominational boundaries each year in Haarlem, Netherlands. Children are ministered to and numbers become irrelevant. Read about the Sunrise Festival on pages 1, 6, and 8 in [Where Worlds Meet](#).

With visas denied, God began changing the agenda of a Pastor’s Conference on evangelism and church planting strategy to a Holiness Summit with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The story of the opening of the Nazarene work in Angola and how God is moving now is in [Out of Africa](#).

Doctors and medical staff at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in Papua New Guinea seek to minister both physically and spiritually to their patients and families. Read [updates about the hospital](#) or [Blogs from the missionary doctors](#) (such as [Dr. Stephanie's Happy Thanksgiving](#) or [Dr. Andy's Round Numbers](#)).

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

Sometimes God uses Sunday School classes for children to bring adults closer to himself. Watch this [video](#) from Lebanon to see one example. Tips for discipling children in missions are in this [presentation](#).

According to the 2011 annual church statistics reported by September 30, 2011, there were over 2.1 million full and associate members of the Church of the Nazarene (a 3.7% increase from 2010). These members attended 26,353 Nazarene active organized churches and church-type missions (CTM). 807 of these churches were just organized last year. These and other statistics are available on the international [Church of the Nazarene website](#), including statistics by [region](#), [field](#), and [world area](#).