

Missions Splash – February 2012



Joshua and Mission

Read: Deuteronomy 31:3-8; Joshua 1:1-18; Josh. 22:1-9; Josh. 23:1-24:13.

In accordance with his earlier promises to Abraham and to Moses, God called Joshua to participate in his mission by leading the Israelites into Canaan. This included entering a foreign land, going to war to take possession of it, and dividing it between the tribes. While it is difficult to understand why killing and war are part of God's mission story, this was not an open authorization for war. The instructions were for a specific time and place, and only when the Israelites remained faithful and holy, or set apart for God to use. War and killing were not a national right or for defending human interests. Rather, they were reserved for times instructed by God with the outcome decided by God (11:20; 23:3; 23:9-10; 24:11-13). While God promised to go before them and be with them, courage and absolute obedience were required of all the Israelites for the task or they would fail (7:11-13; 23:12-16).

The purpose of God's mission was that all people would know the Lord (4:20-24). Indeed, Rahab and the people of Jericho, all of the kings west of the Jordan (and presumably many people in their kingdoms), and the Gibeonites came to know of Yahweh, the God whom the Israelites served (2:9-11; 5:1; 9:1-3; 9:8-11). Joshua saw how God used him to fulfill the promise and he encouraged the Israelites shortly before his death to continue in completing their task.

- How does this perspective of war differ from wars which are declared by nations and won by military strength, technology, and strategy? Or from wars to defend people, ideologies, or human rights?
- Consider Joshua 4:20-24. How important is it to remember the purpose of God's mission while completing the tasks he gives to us? Why?
- God told Joshua to lead a group of wandering tribes to conquer many settled nations. Has God ever asked you to do a seemingly impossible task? What was your response?
- If God told you or your church to do a specific task, what things might discourage or distract you from continuing in absolute obedience? How could you overcome the temptations and faithfully complete God's task for you?

Missions News for Your Church

Arabic MTV will be broadcasting television shows every day during the season of Lent which share about Christ. Learn more about how to pray for this World Mission Broadcast ministry based in Lebanon on page 4 of [Heartline](#).

The love of God meets people where they are – even on a riverboat in South Sudan. Read "African Riverboat Becomes House of Worship" in [NCN News](#).

A former drug pusher now pushes God. His testimony is about how good God is and how God worked in his life. Watch the video on the [Asia-Pacific Nazarene Vimeo site](#).

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

The annual Nazarene World Week of Prayer is Sunday, February 26 – Saturday, March 3 this year. Ask your church to participate. Each day the prayer focus is on a different region. Prayer requests from the specific regions are on the [NMI webpage](#) for distribution among your congregation. Some churches use these requests to pray for the areas throughout the year.

A note of thanks to all the districts on the Eurasia Region for giving to the World Evangelism Fund was included on page 12 in the December [Where Worlds Meet](#).

The Jesus Film has been a very effective tool for introducing Jesus to people in many countries. Since 1998, 11 million people have made decisions for Christ. Every 28 minutes the film is viewed somewhere in the world and on average, two people come to Jesus every 3 minutes through the film ministry. [Posters and handouts](#) and [praises and prayer](#) requests are available at www.jfhp.org to support this ministry.