

Missions Splash – March 2012



Rahab, Naaman, the Queen of Sheba, and Mission

Read: Joshua 2:1-11; 1 Kings 10:1-9; 2 Kings 5:1-15.

Each story is a cross-cultural encounter, involving Israelites and Gentiles from different nations and backgrounds. Rahab was a female prostitute in Jericho. Naaman was ill with leprosy and a successful army commander in Aram. The Queen was a wealthy political ruler from southern Arabia. Each of these people first heard about the Lord from witnesses. Confirmations of these reports followed from foreign Israelite spies, Elisha the prophet, and King Solomon. Rahab, Naaman, and the Queen responded with praise and proclamation of God's sovereignty. God revealed himself to each person as they were in their particular place in life. Their lifestyles, associations with other gods or beliefs, social status, ethnicity, nationality, gender, or health did not prevent God from reaching them and working in their lives.

- According to Joshua 2:9-11, the people's hearts feared and acknowledged God's sovereignty before the Israelite spies arrived. How has God worked (or is working) in the hearts of people in your city to prepare them to hear God's message?
- Naaman expected a spectacular power display to cure his leprosy (2 Kings 5:11-12). Instead, God chose to work through the faith of a Jewish-hostage-slave-girl-child and a foreign prophet, and the humility of the muddy Jordan River. In what unexpected ways have you seen God work to reach people in his mission?
- The Queen of Sheba was overwhelmed by what she saw in King Solomon's palace. What gifts, talents, achievements, or personal qualities have you seen others use to point people to God?
- As in these examples, sometimes we are sent to "the nations" and sometimes "the nations" are sent to us. How does God want to use you to reveal himself to people in the nations? How does God want to use your church to reveal himself to people in the nations? Are you willing to listen to people in the nations for something God may wish to say to you?

Missions News for Your Church

How does one send the gospel message "where radio signals cannot reach" in Papua New Guinea? Read "Branching Out to Tape Ministry for Very Remote Places" in the [World Mission Broadcast's *Transmission*](#) Summer 2011 edition.

The Old Testament has not yet been translated into the Koorete language, however the Jesus Film has been and was used to share the gospel with the Koorete people in Ethiopia. Read about the event in this blog from the [Horn of Africa Field website](#).

"This was certainly "Work and Witness" in a different way than what I have ever experienced." Read how convicted prisoners joined a Work and Witness team in New Zealand in [NCN News](#).

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

The General Board voted in February for the Church of the Nazarene to officially enter three new areas, bringing the total to 159 world areas: #157 - South Sudan (Africa Region); #158 - Turks and Caicos (Mesoamerica Region); and #159 - Creative Access Area 10 - [NCN News](#).

More promotional resources are now available for the Easter Offering. See the [2012 Easter theme and resources](#) and the [Collection Cup idea from Lebanon](#). [Fast Facts about Nazarene missions](#) and what the World Evangelism Fund is supporting are also available to share with your congregation.

The [International Mission Education Journal for 2012](#) is a series of lessons for adults and children, challenging and educating them in ways the Church of the Nazarene is participating in God's mission around the world. Besides English, [French and Spanish](#) translations are also available. [Living Mission](#), another mission education tool with the theme "Love Mercy", will be available March 28, 2012.

[Eurasia Nazarene Youth Congress](#) will take place in Chennai, India 31 July-5 August, 2012 with ministry teams following. Consider sponsoring someone 18-29 years old to participate in a ministry team which will follow the event and give God the opportunity to speak to them through experiencing missions.