

Missions Splash – June 2012



Ruth and Mission

Read: Ruth 1:1-4:22.

The book of Ruth is a story about two women, who were widowed, refugees, poor, and destitute with no financial or physical security. Both of them experienced life as a foreigner and ethnic minority in another country. Past issues and tensions between Israel and Moab also likely negatively influenced relations for them. In the midst of economic, social, cultural, political, and gender marginalization, extraordinary acts of commitment and faithfulness abounded. Just as God actively orchestrated provision for these women, he also provided for Israel in the birth of Obed, who would become the grandfather of King David.

- In what ways was God faithful and committed to Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz? In what ways were these characters faithful to each other?
- Look at Genesis 12:2-3, Judges 2:10-13, Judges 21:25, Ruth 1:1, Ruth 4:17, Matthew 1:1-17. In light of these verses, in what ways was God faithful and committed to Israel? In what ways is God faithful and committed to all people?
- Through Boaz's acts of compassion, kindness, respect, and responsibility, he redeemed Ruth, her family relations, social status, property, livelihood, and security. How was Ruth's redemption similar to the comprehensive redemption offered to all people by our ultimate Redeemer, Jesus Christ?
- In hindsight, Israel and all people desperately needed the person and commitment of Ruth for her contribution to our salvation and God's mission of redemption and restoration. Do we view and value marginalized individuals with this same potential dependency and appreciation? Why?
- What societal expectations in your country exist for meeting the needs of women, widows, refugees, the poor, foreigners, ethnic minorities, disabled, or other marginalized people? What needs are not being met? How can you and your church communicate God's love, valuing, and faithfulness to marginalized people?

Missions News for Your Church

"One evening as the sun set, I went to work. As I walked through one of three red light districts in Puerto Maldonado, Peru, the shadows grew longer as darkness descended. The only light came from red light bulbs hanging above the establishments where my coworkers and I made our money." Read how God worked through two men to bring a comprehensive redemption for Vivian on pages 13-14 in the [2012 International Mission Education Journal](#).

The Gisenyi Church of the Nazarene in Rwanda is involved in wholistic transformation of 800 orphaned children's lives through an NCM center. Read about it in "Off the Streets" and "Lucky's Transformation" on pages 18-21 in [NCM Magazine](#).

The Kiatine Church of the Nazarene in Kenya sees how "A Little Help Can Go a Long Way" at their Famine Feeding Center. "When asked about sharing her food, one participant said with tears in her eyes, 'What would Jesus want us to do?'" in [Out of Africa](#).

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

Help your congregation become aware of marginalized people and their needs in the local community and around the world. Lessons to inform, discuss, and challenge our church about the needs of women, foreigners or strangers, and the disabled are on pages 13-26 in the [2012 IMEJ](#).

The International Board of Education and Global Clergy Development for the Church of the Nazarene oversees the training and equipping of 40,000 Nazarene ministers through 53 colleges, universities, and seminaries. NMI supports this ministry by encouraging prayer for the students, faculty, and staff, support for missionary teachers and administrators, Alabaster giving for buildings, and sending Work and Witness Teams to serve. More details about [Nazarene educational institutions](#) are here.

[Prayer and fasting](#) is a spiritual discipline which helps us seek God's face, allowing the Holy Spirit to work in us. Is there something in your life that could be denied, to help you focus on God more clearly? Is there a people group or country that God would ask you to pray for his mission to be fulfilled?