

Missions Splash – July 2012



A King for Israel and Mission

Read: 1 Samuel 8; 1 Samuel 9:15-17; 1 Samuel 10:1; 1 Samuel 10:6-9; 1 Samuel 10:17-25; 1 Samuel 12:6-25; 1 Samuel 13:11-14; 1 Samuel 15:16-16:1.

The period of the judges includes many instances of Israel's failure to worship and serve God alone, as his holy people in a witness to the nations. The culmination of their failure is found in 1 Samuel in their request for a human king to lead their people in order to be like the other nations around them. Even though Israel rejected God as their king, God's love for all people and his intent to use the Israelites to fulfill his mission of redeeming, reconciling, and restoring creation did not change. God was willing to appoint Saul to be king and to work through him and the Israelites if they would worship, serve, and obey him. When Saul failed to serve and obey God, another king had to be chosen who would serve God and wanted to participate in his mission.

- God chooses to use human beings as his channels for his mission to the nations and invites us to participate in it. We have the choice to join him, and he sometimes adjusts his plans to reflect our choices, as in the example of appointing a king for Israel. What does this tell us about the value God holds in our participation in his mission?
- The Israelites allowed insecurity, fear, political might, and unrighteousness to turn them from serving and obeying God alone. What distractions, temptations, and concerns tempt you and your church from an unwavering obedience, holiness, and faithfulness to God alone? What are the most helpful ways to avoid these snares?
- Compare Jesus' response to temptations in Luke 4:5-8 with Saul's (1 Samuel 13:5-14; 15:16-24). Is there some part of your heart that needs to be changed or surrendered so that God can use you in his mission?

Missions News for Your Church

"That's our job – to be faithful to build up whatever God wants. This is the Lord's business," Juliene said. . . . "We think it's this huge thing, that He's going to transform Sweden because we're there, but really He's going to transform us and our family first," she said. "Missions is tough. We won't come out the same." More about a new start in Sweden is in [Engage](#) and [Where Worlds Meet](#).

"I witnessed first-hand the liberating power of God moving in the lives of these vibrantly saved and Spirit-filled believers as they, for the first time, understood that God could possibly be asking them to carry the Good News to the nations," wrote missionary Joel Tooley. Read more about the Cuban youth's discovery in [Engage Magazine](#).

"His voice was gone, swallowing was impossible, and his airway was rapidly swelling shut. When it did, he would be dead within a few minutes. . . . I told Kapal I needed to cut a hole in his neck to help him breathe and asked him to sign a consent. I didn't tell him I had never done it before. . . . He signed the consent form, 'Kapal, God bless.' We prayed, and I would venture to say it was one of the most sincere and desperate prayers ever lifted by patient and doctor together." Read the rest of this missionary doctor's story from Papua New Guinea in [Engage Magazine](#).

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

Prayer is an essential part of supporting Nazarene missions to the farthest parts of the world. It is important to continually remind the congregation of this and model it by leading them in praying for the nations. For suggestions on how to pray, what to pray for, and promoting prayer for missions in your church, visit this [new prayer webpage](#) as part of the other Eurasia NMI webpages.

Loving, Interested Nazarenes Knowing and Sharing, or LINKS, is a connection for building relationships between local churches and missionaries. Churches pray for missionaries and their ministries, stay in contact with them through letters and email, and sometimes even send gifts. If your district would like to be LINKed to a missionary for a period of two years, contact Heidi Bowes at hbowes@eurasiaregion.org.