

Missions Splash – December 2012



David and Mission, Part 1 – a man after God's own heart

Read: 1 Samuel 16:6-13; 2 Samuel 22:1-23:5; Psalm 40:1-10; Acts 13:22.

After Saul failed to worship God alone and attempted to control God's mission, God chose a new king for Israel. This time it was someone after God's own heart. In the Hebrew understanding, the heart was the seat of the will; therefore, God's will was David's will. David understood that God's will was for all of creation to know and worship him (1 Chronicles 16:23-36). David served God and relied on the daily strength the Lord gave him, not his own. Recorded in the scriptures are descriptions of his righteousness, justice, faithfulness, obedience, and his conversations and intimacy with God (2 Samuel 22:21-25; Psalm 5:4-8; Ps 7:8; Ps 26; Ps 40:1-10). God's choice in David was unlikely to the world: the youngest brother, an unrespected profession, and a family heritage including a prostitute, an adulteress, and an immigrant.

- God's statement in Acts 13:22 comments first about who David was as a person, and second, his ability to perform and accomplish for God's purpose. David's ability to *do* and lead as a king resulted from his capacity to *be*. His identity was *not* subject to his performance; his performance was subject to and resulted from his character. What does this say about the importance of *being* in relationship to *doing*? If God were to make a statement about my character and identity, what would he say? How do I give God the opportunity to cleanse and prepare my heart for when God asks me to participate in his mission?
- In 2 Samuel 22:21-25, David gives a positive testimony about his actions, as in Psalm 26. Yet David was not perfect; two examples of his sins and God's judgment are found in 2 Samuel 11:1 – 12:20, and 1 Chronicles 21. When confronted with his sin, how did David respond? How did God respond to David?
- How does one rely on the Lord's strength instead of on one's own (1 Samuel 30:6; 2 Samuel 22:33)?

Missions News for Your Church

Moscow First Church, the first Nazarene church organized in Russia, celebrated its 20th anniversary in October. As the church celebrated God's work in the past, they also celebrated two lives beginning a relationship with Christ that day. See pages 1, 4, & 5 in [Where Worlds Meet](#).

"World Mission Broadcast (WMB) is supporting a radio program called *Subha Ki Aradhana* which ministers Christ's love to the Hindu communities in the San Francisco and San Jose areas of California. This is made possible only because of the faithful support received from Nazarenes in the annual WMB offering." – *NMI Heartline*, October 2012

Read how the young church in Vanuatu, Nazarene missionaries, Nazarene discipleship tools, and the work of Wycliffe missionaries have all come together in transforming lives on the island from the [Potters' missionary blog](#).

Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents

"Following the example of Jesus, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries partners with local Nazarene congregations around the world to clothe, shelter, feed, heal, educate, and live in solidarity with those who suffer under oppression, injustice, violence, poverty, hunger, and disease. NCM exists in and through the Church to proclaim the Gospel to all people" ([NMI website](#)). NMI supports this ministry locally and internationally. Ways to participate can be found on the [NCM website](#).

"What began as Men in Missions in January 1974 has changed and grown into what is now Work & Witness. Over 190,000 people have been involved since its establishment. Work & Witness teams help with construction, medical and technical work, and evangelistic needs all over the world. Visit the [Work & Witness site](#) to discover how you and your church can become involved in changing the lives of others" ([NMI website](#)).