

## Missions Splash – November 2013



### **Songs and Mission – Part 1, God of the universe**

Read: Psalms 47, 65, 98, 99, 103, and 113.

The Psalms are a collection of songs sung by the Israelites in worship from the time period in which the kings ruled. As reflected in the Psalms, the Israelites knew Yahweh as righteous, just, merciful, compassionate, loving, and faithful. He is the Creator of all things. He is sovereign, ruler of the entire cosmos, and judge. Being just, he punishes sin, wickedness, and worshipping the creation instead of the Creator.

- The Psalmist called all of God's creation to praise and worship him out of love and adoration. Why does the Psalmist do this? See Psalms 67 and 84. What will happen when the entire creation worships God?
- Read Psalms 66:8-12 and 9:7-19. How can the Israelites rejoice from God's judgment? Why would 'the nations' (those who did not worship Yahweh) rejoice from God's judgment?
- The universal calls to praise are found among other songs which request very particular blessings for the nation of Israel as God's chosen people and severe punishment for their enemies and 'the wicked'. How should we understand these seemingly conflicting notions of selective exclusivism vs. universal inclusivism? Nationalism vs. all peoples? Harsh punishment vs. multi-cultural, -national, and -ethnic gatherings of worship in unity?
- The Psalms give us a God-centered perspective of the cosmos, his ordering, and his rule. What other perspectives compete with this understanding of how the world works? How does our perspective influence our purpose, activities, and understanding of God's mission?

### **Missions News for Your Church**

A very practical investment of love and resources transformed an entire community in the Philippines environmentally, physically, socially, mentally, and spiritually. Read this [Asia-Pacific Region News Blog](#) to find out how.

"Witnessing God's power and might has made each one of the Bible's stories about healings and demon possessions all the more real to me. While we were praying, I was not afraid, but I knew we needed more prayers. It was a battle, but I knew God would win!" Missionary Sheena Green's blog was reprinted in [Engage](#), telling the story of a four year old who was freed from a demon in Peru.

Churches in Germany, Jerusalem, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and other countries are ministering to the Syrian refugees fleeing their homes. God is changing lives inside and outside the church. Read the "[Syria Crisis](#)" story and view the PowerPoint slides to see how.

### **Promotional and Informational Tools for NMI Presidents**

The new Eurasia Regional Director is Rev. Arthur Snijders from the Netherlands. Get to meet him and follow this transition through October and November publications of [Where Worlds Meet](#).

NMI in Lebanon uses [Facebook](#) to network with their churches about ministry!

The Asia-Pacific Region has started distributing [Around the Region](#), a regional newsletter. Read or subscribe for updates by clicking on the link.

[World Missions Communications News Desk](#) is a new missions news channel available to your congregation. The missions features are broadcast in English, Spanish, Tagalog, and Korean.

This year's [NCM Giving Catalog](#) is available online. Some in your church may want to use this for Christmas gifts; others may choose a church Christmas project from it. Be sure to pass it on!