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# International Mission Education Journal

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# 2011 International Mission Education Journal

Volume XXV • 2011

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Use of the *International Mission Education Journal* counts annually as the missions publications and communications category of the mission education requirement for Mission Priority One (MPO). If you utilize the children's portion and adapt the adult lessons for youth or if you include children and/or youth in the adult lessons, you could count that toward the children and youth requirement for MPO.

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# ADULT/YOUTH CURRICULUM

## Living Mission—Forgotten People

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Jesus called us to follow His example. Through His teaching He modeled a lifestyle of care for all people and calls us to do the same. *Living Mission* informs, inspires, and involves you and others in your church for God's global mission.

### Priceless People—The Reality of Human Trafficking

Many times we overlook people around us, not valuing them as Jesus does. Why would any of us put a price tag on any priceless individual? Have you ever felt that someone put a price tag on you, making you feel worthless?

### Lighting the Way—The Importance of Educating Children

Have you ever wondered what life would be like without education? Your ability to read and write has opened opportunities not available to many persons globally. Will you share your life and light with those who live in darkness?

### In God's Image—The Poqomchi' People of Guatemala

Many of us have felt neglected and forgotten. We hurt, and no one notices. Have you forgotten or ignored your neighbor? We can learn to love forgotten people and remember them.

### What Is "Enough"—The Reality of Hunger and Poverty

Poverty and need are the results of living in a fallen world. If we are people of faith, then we are children of Abraham and are God's blessing to the world. Exactly who is part of our community? We need to grapple with the concept of "enough," so we can provide for those in need in our community.

### Evangelism

Evangelism takes place in many different ways and is essentially living in a way that causes others to want to be like you. We need to be prepared to articulate our hope in Christ to effectively evangelize.

### Crisis

Loving our neighbors means helping them during times of crisis. Crises create special opportunities to demonstrate God's love. The Church of the Nazarene offers dozens of opportunities for all ages to help during times of crisis.

### CAUSES

Something exciting happens when a group of people gathers around a common cause to make an impact on the kingdom of God. The CAUSES will help you to promote Nazarene missions in a powerful way and give your people an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the work of God's kingdom.

#### CAUSE 1—Leadership Education and Advancement Program

This CAUSE offers children who have graduated from Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Child Sponsorship an opportunity to continue their education. Your congregation can give these young people a greater opportunity to learn, earn a living, and support their families for a lifetime.

#### CAUSE 2—The Poqomchi' of Guatemala—Forgotten People

For decades the Church of the Nazarene has worked in Guatemala to "make Christlike disciples." But a nearby tribe called the Poqomchi' was inadvertently overlooked by our church and by other Christian ministries. The Poqomchi' need resources to learn about God's love, to grow spiritually, and to disciple others.

**CAUSE 3—I Am One—Reaching the Lost with God’s Love**

The “I Am One” CAUSE features opportunities through JESUS Film Harvest Partners that invite people into a personal relationship with Christ.

# LESSON 1: Priceless People—The Reality of Human Trafficking

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## PURPOSE

To understand...

1. What human trafficking is
2. Where it is happening, both locally and globally
3. Why it is happening
4. How to do something about it

### Preparation

Before the lesson presentation, display several copies of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' (NCM) human trafficking articles in the lobby for people to look at as they enter. (These articles and other online resources are found in the following Web sites.)

Human Trafficking Web Sites:

The Polaris Project: For a World Without Slavery

<http://www.polarisproject.org>

Hands of Hope: To Abolish Human Trafficking (Wesleyan Denomination)

<http://www.wesleyan.org/ww/opportunities/hope>

Search for information about “human trafficking” or “human slavery” in your library or on the Internet. You should find many organizations that are working to combat this tragedy.

Human Trafficking articles: (Translators—The articles below are only available in English. Search for ones in your language, choosing appropriate substitute articles.)

“Sexual Exploitation: Preying on the Innocent” by Stephen Gualberto

[http://www.ncm.org/pdf/NCM\\_Magazine\\_Spring2009.pdf](http://www.ncm.org/pdf/NCM_Magazine_Spring2009.pdf)

“The Reality of Child Trafficking” by Heidi Hermann

[http://www.ncm.org/pdf/NCMagazine\\_spring08.pdf](http://www.ncm.org/pdf/NCMagazine_spring08.pdf)

Make copies of the Information Sheet (found at the end of this lesson) and distribute to those in attendance.

### Presentation

Read aloud and consider the following quote: “It’s as if Jesus is trying to say, ‘We don’t value people the same way, you and I. You see price tags and social status. I see stories, relationships, priceless jewels in every single child of God.’”

### Discuss

- Do you think our society values people differently than the way Jesus valued people? If so, how?
- What do you think needs to happen for that gap to begin to close?

Another quote: “And all He wanted us to understand is that we were bought with a price—a very extreme one. One so extreme, in fact, that it cancelled out all other figures . . . ripped off the price tags for good, making us of equal and enormous worth.”

### Discuss

- Do you ever feel “worth less” than someone else? If so, would you be willing to share that with the group?
- What does it mean that Christ bought you and now you are priceless?
- How can you demonstrate this liberating truth to others?

A third quote: “Your living mission is to sift out the attitudes of your heart that cause you to put price tags on things that were never meant to have price tags, and to evaluate your own way of measuring worth.”

#### Discuss

- What are ways modern society puts price tags on that which was never meant to have them?
- What are ways you can show others their true, God-given worth?

### Mission Story 1: Indian Restaurant

David Batstone, who is a prominent author on human trafficking, enjoyed eating at an Indian restaurant in San Francisco. In fact, he and his wife had eaten there regularly for several years. What he didn't realize was that every employee in the restaurant was a slave from India. The owner of that particular restaurant operated several businesses, and he also owned various apartment complexes. This owner would travel to India, and he would traffic people from India back to America to work in his restaurants. Male and female, all ages—he brought them back, forcing them to work in his restaurant and to live in his apartments.

To appear legal in America, he paid them a wage. Everything looked normal on the surface. However, the employees were forced to pay back in rent everything they earned at the restaurant. There were even guards posted at the door of the apartments.

The plot was uncovered when two of the girls in the apartments were overcome by carbon monoxide. One of the roommates called the landlord, who was, of course, the owner. He showed up with some men. Together they rolled the girls up in a carpet, still alive, and took them out to a waiting van. A pedestrian saw the men putting the girls into the van and also struggling to force another roommate into the van. He asked another passerby to call the police. Law enforcement was able to get there and arrest the men, but not in time for one of the girls, who later died at the hospital.

The arrest uncovered the reality of the human trafficking ring that the owner was running. The restaurant and several other businesses and apartment complexes were literally filled with these slaves from India. That's the reality. David Batstone and his wife had enjoyed eating at that restaurant for years and had no idea that all the employees were slaves and not free to leave.

#### Discussion of “Indian Restaurant”

- What is your first response to this reality?
- Does hearing this make you think about any places you might have been (restaurants, etc.) where activity like this might also be occurring?
- How do we, as Christians, even begin to tackle this enormous problem?

#### “These are somebody's kids.” Why would someone give up his or her child?

- Oftentimes someone the family knows offers to educate and employ their child so that the child can become successful and send money back home to the family. The child gives up his or her passport, and the parents sign away the child's rights.
- In return, the “trafficker” controls the child's paperwork, language (or the lack of), job, body, and fear. He abuses and scares the child and controls the child's life. The trafficker literally breaks the will of the child and sometimes even threatens to kill the child's relatives.
- Sometimes families give over their child when a personal or family emergency requires immediate funds. Individuals or families are forced to work for very little or no pay in exchange for a small loan. The debt increases faster than what the trafficked person, or slave, is paid. The slave is then trapped without hope of ever paying the debt.

*(Source: Nazarene Compassionate Ministries)*

#### What is Human Trafficking?

- The United Nations defines it as, “*The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of*

*payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation."*

- It is one of the greatest threats to human dignity.
- It treats human beings like commodities.
- It describes all forms of modern-day slavery.
- It is no longer a term from the past; it's a horrific reality in our present day and future.
- It traps victims in commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution), labor sweatshops, domestic servitude, construction and agriculture, and more.

#### Facts about Human Trafficking

- An estimated 12 to 27 million people are caught in one form or another of slavery.
- Between 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked internationally, with as many as 17,500 people trafficked into the United States.
- Nearly three out of every four victims are women.
- Half of modern-day slaves are children.

(Source: <http://www.freedomcenter.org/slavery-today/>)

### Mission Story 2: Theresa's Story

Theresa was a sex trafficking victim. It all started when another young high school student "befriended" her, offering her a ride home one day. He suggested they swing by his uncle's place because the student needed to pick something up on the way home. When he invited her in, Theresa suspected something but didn't think much of it. Once inside, a group of men drugged her, gang-raped her, and videotaped it. When the men threatened to tell others, she was terrified. Theresa was a good Catholic girl, so she had a fear of exposure.

Theresa was actually a slave in her own home. She went home to her own bed every night for three years. One of the men would call her about midnight on a phone in her room. They would tell her to sneak out, and then pick her up to take her to a "john" [man paying for sex]. She would service johns and be back in her own bed by morning.

This went on for three years. Theresa's grades began to drop, her behavior changed, and nobody really noticed. Theresa finally had had enough and through some circumstances was able to escape. Now she travels and tells her story. This happened approximately 30 years ago. We may think human trafficking is a new problem. It's not, but our world is becoming more aware of the frightening reality.

#### Discussion of "Theresa's Story"

- Did you ever imagine something like this happening in your own country?
- What bothers you most about this story?
- How do you think the gang's tactics were so effective?

#### Facts about Sex Trafficking

- Globally, one million children enter the sex trade every year. (UNICEF)
- The amount of money generated by the world sex trade every year is estimated at \$7 billion to \$19 billion. (INTERPOL)

#### Why is there sexual slavery?

- Supply and demand: 80 percent of all trafficking is sex trafficking. (The United Nations)
- It is a highly lucrative business, with low risk of prosecution.
- Many nations allow prostitution within their borders as a legal industry.

#### ASK

- Have you ever known or met someone who
  - had little to no possessions?
  - had no control of his or her money?

- always had someone speaking on his or her behalf?
- was malnourished?
- What might be other signs of human trafficking around us?

#### How has the Church of the Nazarene responded?

One of the most important ways to prevent child trafficking is to invest in children. The church is specifically responding to the protection of children from child trafficking in two main ways:

1. **Education and awareness in local congregations of the value of children and injustices that affect the lives of children.**
  - **Lay-level Education:** This education involves lay-level church awareness and preparedness, including education and training for laity in child trafficking issues, particularly for individuals working specifically with children.
  - **Higher Education:** The Holistic Child Development Graduate Certificate program master's and doctoral degrees have begun at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) in Manila, Philippines, and are being developed at the seminary level throughout Latin America. Such programs are designed to equip leaders, teachers, child advocates, practitioners, and pastors who have the gifts, skills, and capacity to care holistically for children inside and outside the church.
2. **Prevention- and recovery-focused child development programs working specifically with local churches in areas where children are at a high risk of being trafficked.** These offer protection for children, as well as a safe and nurturing place for recovery when children have experienced such exploitation. At this time, these programs are concentrated within the Asia-Pacific Region.
  - **Step-UP program:** APNTS has also begun a program that provides in-depth training for mentors of potentially trafficked youth in their own church or community centers. Additionally, this program works with out-of-school youth who may be at risk of being trafficked, providing them with computer skills, daily life skills, and spiritual values. For more information, e-mail [stepup@apnts.org](mailto:stepup@apnts.org).
  - **Heavenly Grace Home:** Heavenly Grace Home (HG Home) was started by a medical doctor and his wife in Myanmar to serve as a safe place for children who are abandoned and rescued from slavery, trafficking (at the border of Myanmar and Thailand), and prostitution. This home was exclusively for girls during its early years and was called HG Girls Home. But because of the lack of facilities and programs for boys who are also affected by such issues, HG Girls Home was transitioned to a co-ed program in 2005 and changed its name to HG Home. The home provides safe living quarters, counseling, mentoring, life-skills training, educational assistance and tutorials, daily meals, spiritual formation, and health services to children.

The Church of the Nazarene believes that children are important to God and a priority in His kingdom. We believe God directed us to attend to all children—to love, nurture, protect, uphold, guide, and advocate for them. It is God's plan that we introduce children to a life of salvation and growth in grace.

#### Do something that matters. (Get Involved!):

- Think about these passages: James 1:27; Matthew 18:1-6, 10-14; Mark 10:13-15; and Luke 10:25-37.
- Suggestions from Darrell MacLearn, a Nazarene pastor and project manager on human trafficking for the State of Texas Concerned Women for America:
  - Step outside your box and get into the lives of people around you. Care about people.
  - Look around you and recognize the signs of modern-day slavery.
  - Assist with prevention of human trafficking. Many things we purchase are made by slaves.
  - Spread the word about the reality of human exploitation.
  - Start a safe home through your church where rescued people can live.
  - Volunteer in a ministry that rescues people from the slave trade.

- Support ministries that help individuals break sexual addictions. While we can't do everything for everyone, we can do something for someone.

### Conclusion

There are an estimated 27 million trafficking victims in the world today, and the tragic trade in human beings is growing! Trafficking is the ugly side of globalization in which the strong exploit and abuse the vulnerable for their personal pleasure and gain. The size and pervasiveness of the crime presents an alarming problem.

As Christians, we must learn about human trafficking so we can stand with our brothers and sisters who are experiencing this form of oppression. The bonds of slavery are broken when we begin to get involved in the lives of people in our neighborhoods and around the world.

### Prayer Points

- Pray for children and adults who are victims of human trafficking. Pray for their deliverance and their protection. Pray for their care and comfort.
- Pray that God raises up more people to fight against human trafficking. Pray for more workers to help in programs that address human trafficking.
- Pray that God blesses your congregation with a compassionate heart toward persons who are trafficked both at home and around the world.

Choose a particular area of the world and pray for children in that area:

- In Sri Lanka, children often become the prey of sexual exploiters through friends and relatives. The prevalence of boys in prostitution here is strongly related to foreign tourism.
- An estimated 12,000 Nepalese children, mainly girls, are trafficked for sexual commercial exploitation each year within Nepal or to brothels in India and other countries.
- Some 84 percent of girls in prostitution who were interviewed in Tanzania reported having been battered, raped, or tortured by police officers and *sungu sungu* (local community guards). At least 60 percent had no permanent place to live. Some of these girls started out as child domestic workers.
- In El Salvador, one-third of the sexually exploited children between 14 and 17 years of age are boys.
- In Vietnam, family poverty, low family education, and family dysfunction were found to be primary causes for child sexual exploitation. Sixteen percent of the children interviewed were illiterate, 38 percent had only primary-level schooling. Sixty-six percent said that tuition and school fees were not affordable.
- There are about 60,000 child prostitutes in the Philippines.
- Mexico's social service agency reports that there are more than 16,000 children engaged in prostitution, with tourist destinations being among those areas with the highest number of child prostitutes.
- In Lithuania, 20 to 50 percent of prostitutes are believed to be minors. Residents from children's homes, some 10 to 12 years old, have been used to make pornographic movies.

(Information gathered from Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) in "Facts on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" (PDF), International Labor Organization (ILO) 2004. This information can be found at <http://www.wotclef.org>.)

## Information Sheet

### Priceless People—The Reality of Human Trafficking

#### REAL STORIES

Theresa, a teenager, was tricked into enslavement by a school classmate. Although she continued living in her own home, she was forced into secret prostitution for three years.

In a major city, immigrants were trafficked from India and forced to work in restaurants and live in heavily guarded apartment buildings. People ate at the restaurant every day, not realizing all the employees were slaves.

#### LEARN THE FACTS

- About 12-27 million people are caught in slavery.
- 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked internationally, with as many as 17,500 people trafficked into the United States.
- Nearly three out of every four victims are women.
- Half of modern-day slaves are children.

#### RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS

A person may be a victim of trafficking if he or she:

- Appears to be under someone else's control; appears to be under surveillance at all times.
- Is unable to move to a new location or leave his or her job.
- Does not manage his or her own money or the money is largely controlled by someone else.
- Is not in control of his or her own identification or travel documents.
- Works excessive hours for little or no pay.
- Lives with multiple people in a very cramped space or with an employer.
- Appears to have visible injuries or scars (such as cuts, bruises, or burns), untreated illnesses or infections.
- See more at <http://www.salvationarmyusa.org/trafficking>.

#### GET INVOLVED

Find local agencies with which you can volunteer; learn more about trafficking and how to stop it; download prayer and fasting resources:

<http://www.salvationarmy.org/usn/geographiclisting.pdf>

#### PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we know that each person you created is priceless to You, so valuable that You gave your own Son's life for ours. We ask forgiveness for the times we treat others as less valuable. Please send out Your Spirit and the followers of Your Son to bring comfort, liberation, and healing to people around the world who have been enslaved. Give us wisdom in how to break down worldly strongholds that make slavery possible. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## LESSON 2: Lighting the Way— The Importance of Educating Children

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### *PURPOSE*

To understand . . .

1. Why the lack of education is a problem for many children around the globe
2. What can be changed through improved education for boys and girls
3. How to get involved in improving education for children

### Preparation

Distribute a Bible verse in another language. Choose a language most people in your congregation will not know. You can find various translation sites on the Web. With the verse, include several questions for the group to answer. These could include questions such as “Where is this verse in the Bible?” or “What is the topic of this verse?”

Remind the participants that children who lack a good education often find themselves in similar situations as your participants when the children are unable to read or write. This lesson will address the importance of providing education to needy children around the world and how the Church of the Nazarene is doing just that.

Read the following verses: Matthew 5:14-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 11:19; Proverbs 31:8; Luke 18:16.

### Information Sheet

Make copies of the information sheet found at the end of this lesson to distribute to each person.

### Lesson Presentation

Read aloud and consider this quote: “One very important and essential goal of God that stretches back to the very dawn of creation is sharing light, bringing light to dark places. . . . We are all light-bearers. And our job is to imitate the very first action of God in bringing light to the darkness, the confusion, the formlessness.”

Discuss:

- What kinds of “light” do we bear that can be shared?
- Who are the people who most need this light?

A second quote: “Being a light-bearer doesn’t mean staying in the lit-up places. Being a light-bearer means that you seek out those who are living in darkness, you move into the confusion.”

Discuss:

- As the Body of Christ, is it possible we never leave the “lit-up places”? If yes, how so?
- What would be an example of seeking out “those who are living in darkness and confusion”?

A third quote: “When you decide to invest in the education of the youth of this world you are making an impact that you may never fully grasp. . . . Shine your light in a place and in a way you could have never imagined yourself.”

Discuss:

- Have you witnessed education improving the life of a young person who was at risk of being marginalized? If so, please explain.
- How might you be able to shine your light through education to improve the life of a child or teen?

## Mission Story: Educating Children, Foundations for Future Leaders (An Interview with Stephen Gualberto)

Stephen Gualberto is originally from the Philippines, became a program development coordinator with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in the United States, and is now the field strategy coordinator for the Philippines Field that includes the world areas of Chuuk, Guam, Palau, Philippines, Pohnpei, and Saipan. Ask two readers to read the parts of the Narrator and Stephen.

**Narrator:** Describe the struggles your family faced during your childhood, and why education is important to you and how it has impacted your life.

**Stephen:** Let me tell you about my childhood days. I grew up in a slum area in Metro Manila. My parents didn't have the kind of education that would bring them to a good life in Metro Manila....So they ended up living in the slum area....Because they have experienced such poverty, they told me that education would be the primary thing that they could provide for me. And so education for me is very important because it prepares a person to face life; it helps the person make important decisions in life. Education for me also eradicates the cycle of poverty because it empowers the person; it gives them a whole perspective of life and of the world.

**Narrator:** Roughly 332 million children around the world are currently not enrolled in school....Low attendance in schools and access to education [are] directly linked to poverty. How has the education you received as a child...made a difference in your life compared to the life that your parents had growing up?

**Stephen:** My parents worked very hard so that they could send me to school and so that education prepared me for who I am now. I was able to finish my elementary and high school in a Christian school.

**Narrator:** What was the quality of the education you received as a child? And how has it prepared you for today?

**Stephen:** I'm privileged to have [had] an education in a Christian setting....The church provides...quality education in an inexpensive way....The church also gave me the kind of training that prepared me for life....Because my parents had a hard time supporting my education, Child Sponsorship [also] came and ministered to me and helped my parents to sustain my education until my father was able to get a job.

**Narrator:** How can someone make a difference in a child's life in providing a proper education and a foundation for life?

**Stephen:** One is the Child Sponsorship program. People can partner with us by sharing their resources. Twenty-five dollars a month will help a child finish his elementary and high school. That money goes to purchase school supplies for the child....If the child is attending the child development program, that money also goes to the tutorial program of the child.

### Discussion of "Educating Children, Foundations for Future Leaders"

- How does lack of access to education and low attendance in school contribute to poverty?
- Besides Child Sponsorship, how else might we help provide much-needed educational training to children in need?

### *"Education Improves Life."*

What are ways proper education can improve a child's well-being?

- Education helps reduce poverty. When people stay in school, they are able to eventually earn more money and support their families.
- Education is essential to improving health, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, and enabling families to better cope with illness.
- A single year of primary school increases the wages people earn later in life by 5 to 15 percent for boys and even more for girls. For each additional year of secondary school, an individual's wages increase by 15 to 25 percent.

### What are the consequences when a child has no access to education?

- No country has ever achieved continuous and rapid economic growth without first having at least 40 percent of its adults able to read and write.
- Without education, 7 million new cases of HIV/AIDS will fail to be prevented over the next decade.
- If not in school, children end up working to support their family or staying home to take care of younger siblings or sick members of the family.

### Facts about global education for children

- Today, 75 million children are missing out on schooling.
- A child born to a literate mother is 50 percent more likely to survive past the age of five.
- Currently, 250 million children work to help support their families.
- 60 percent of children not in school are girls.
- Half of the world's unschooled children live in communities where the language used in school is different than what is used at home.

(Information adapted from: <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/why-education-for-all/millionsmissout/>)

### Why do many children lack education?

- They cannot afford the cost of going to school (tuition, fees, uniforms, books, etc.).
- They live in rural areas where there are no schools.
- They live in areas of armed conflict, fleeing their homes in search of refuge and sometimes being forced to fight in wars whether they agree with the reasons behind the war or not.

### ASK

- Why do Christians have a responsibility for helping to feed, clothe, and educate children in need around the world?
- What were Jesus' feelings toward children?
- What are some ways you've seen Christians reach out to children both locally and globally?
- Are there areas nearby where your local congregation could do more? Where?

### How has the Church of the Nazarene responded?

The Church of the Nazarene is committed to supporting the educational needs of Nazarene children throughout the world. This is primarily done through our Pastors' Children Education program and our Child Development Centers worldwide.

Our Pastor's Children Education program provides monthly support for children's school needs, such as assisting in the purchase of tuition, books, supplies, and/or uniforms.

Additionally, the approximately 100 Child Development Centers worldwide provide worship and Bible lessons, educational mentoring and tutoring, formal academic training (in some cases), skills training, recreational activities, summer camps, and other developmental activities. They also provide regular medical and dental checkups. In addition to the children, the centers equip the children's parents and caretakers by providing Bible studies, parenting seminars, and moral support. Currently more than 13,500 children in 80 countries are enrolled in the Child Sponsorship program, which provides for their educational and developmental needs.

The denomination's holistic approach to child development seeks to simultaneously address the physical, emotional, relational, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of a child's life. Our Child Development programs incorporate a variety of approaches to help educate and grow children into healthy, sustainable adults ready and eager to serve the Lord.

The Church of the Nazarene has also recently begun a new program, The Leadership Education and Advancement Program (LEAP), to help provide scholarships for continued education after high school graduation for children who have grown up in the Child Sponsorship program and have shown exemplary leadership ability.

### Do something that matters. (*Get Involved!*)

- Increase awareness. Talk to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers about the extended need for education in your area as well as globally.

- Sponsor a child through an organization such as Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, which helps children pay for school costs and seeks to holistically meet their needs. Go to <http://www.cs.ncm.org> for more information.
- After graduation from high school, many youth cease their education. Help contribute to the ongoing educational support of these young people through the Nazarene LEAP program. (See included LEAP CAUSE or go to <http://www.ncm.org/leap> for more information.)

### Conclusion

Education is instrumental in tackling poverty. When individuals are given the opportunity to learn basic life and literary skills, economies grow faster and poverty rates decline. When people go to school, they are provided a greater opportunity to earn money and support their families.

### Prayer Points

- Pray for the 10,600 children sponsored through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, as well as their sponsors.
- Pray that God raises up more people for the 2,500 children still in need of sponsors.
- Pray for the ongoing education and discipleship of children and young people throughout the world. Pray that God helps them thrive as Christian adults who will eventually raise children of their own in the way of Christ.
- Pray that God blesses your congregation with a compassionate heart toward children and young people both at home and around the world.

Specific request for Nazarene congregations and educational institutions:

- Pray for the Church of the Nazarene's educational institutions (Bible schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries) as they prepare students for leadership. Pray as they join local churches and families in taking responsibility to prepare clergy and laity to raise the next generation of children and youth to be biblically and theologically literate and to meet the known and unforeseen challenges for evangelizing, discipling, and transforming their societies.

Pray for our local congregations' ministries to children. Pray that they:

- Provide effective and empowering ministries to the whole child physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually;
- Articulate Christian positions on current social justice issues that affect children;
- Connect children to the heart of the mission and ministry of the faith community;
- Disciple children and train them to disciple others;
- Equip parents to nurture the spiritual formation of their children.

## Information Sheet

### Lighting the Way—The Importance of Educating Children

#### REAL STORY

Stephen Gualberto was a child in the Philippines when his family moved to the city looking for better jobs. Because his parents had not been educated, they could not find work that paid well. Soon they were living in the slums. Through a child sponsorship program, Stephen and his siblings were able to attend school. As a result, Stephen completed higher education, served as Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' Child Sponsorship coordinator, and now is the field strategy coordinator for the Philippines Field that includes the world areas of Chuuk, Guam, Palau, Philippines, Pohnpei, and Saipan.

#### LEARN THE FACTS

- 75 million children globally are not receiving a school education.
- 60 percent of children who miss out on school are girls.
- Many children who lack education cannot afford the cost of going to school or the area where they live is unstable due to armed conflict.
- Countries experiencing low economic growth have a majority of adults who cannot read and write.

#### WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

- In Matthew 19:14, "Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'"
- James 2:15-17: "Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."

#### TAKE ACTION

- Many organizations, including the Church of the Nazarene, have non-profit childhood education ministries. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) offers child sponsorship for more than 13,000 children in 80 countries.
- NCM's 100 Child Development Centers globally provide spiritual teaching, educational tutoring, and developmental activities, as well as regular medical check-ups for children through age 18.
- The Pastor's Children Education Program provides tuition, school supplies, and uniforms for pastor's children in various world areas.
- NCM's new LEAP program allows donors to provide scholarships for exemplary child sponsorship graduates who wish to continue in higher education.
- To learn more or get involved, visit [www.ncm.org/leap](http://www.ncm.org/leap).

#### PRAY

- Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you that You are a God who values people of all ages, including children. We ask that You would lead and equip Your Church on earth to value children by providing creative ways to send disadvantaged children to school. Please also show us ways we can become personally involved in the education of children in our own homes, church and community. Amen.

## LESSON 3: In God's Image—The Poqomchi' People of Guatemala

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### *PURPOSE*

To understand...

1. Who the Poqomchi' people are
2. Where they live
3. Why this people group has felt overlooked
4. How the Church of the Nazarene is reaching out to these "forgotten people"

### **Preparation**

Have a small table with snacks set up in the room. At the beginning of the lesson, invite anyone whose birthday falls anywhere between January and June to get up and enjoy refreshments. In the meantime, keep busy setting up for the lesson, talking with those getting snacks, but obviously overlooking the others in the room. Finally, instruct everyone to take their seats, then ask those who didn't get anything to eat how it felt to be overlooked and forgotten. Ask the others how it felt to be given special treatment.

This lesson will focus on the topic of forgotten people, specifically a group of people in Guatemala known as the Poqomchi' (POH-kohm-chee).

Make copies of the Information sheet, found at the end of this lesson, and distribute them.

### **Presentation**

Read aloud and consider this quote: "Jesus is asked one day, 'Who is my neighbor?' He answers by telling the story of the Good Samaritan."

### **Discuss**

- In your life, who are the people Jesus would say are your neighbors?
- How do these same neighbors sometimes become "forgotten people"?

A second quote: "Making sure my neighbors are OK, placing myself in their situation, means I can share in the joy of their healing and redemption, just as I shared in the sorrow of their former circumstances."

### **Discuss**

- What does it mean to place yourself in the situation of your neighbors?
- Can you tell of a time when, having shared in your neighbors' sorrow, you rejoiced in their healing and redemption?

A third quote: "This world is full of forgotten people; not because God has forgotten this world, but because we have forgotten what it means to bear His image. We have forgotten to look into the face of the hurting and see the very face of God. We have forgotten to love our neighbor with a passion that won't allow us to remove ourselves from their place of suffering."

### **Discuss**

- How can we be bearers of the image of God?
- What would a life look like when lived with a Christ-like passion for our suffering neighbors?

## Mission Story: Forgotten People Around the World and Next Door

*(Ask two readers to read the parts of the Narrator and Missionary.)*

**Narrator:** Describe what an “unreached people group” is.

**Missionary:** The definition we tend to use for unreached people is an ethnic language group having no church-planting movement strong enough to evangelize the entire group....There can be unreached people right in a city or a community that has many, many churches....They [just] don't have someone of their ethnic language group in their culture presenting the Gospel to them in a way that they clearly understand.

**Narrator:** Share with us how the Church of the Nazarene is reaching out to unreached people groups on the Asia-Pacific Region.

**Missionary:** We are in a region that has about 60 percent of the world's unreached people groups....We are working with a number of unreached people groups....In this last year, we have helped establish some new people in a country working with what we would call a gateway city. They are there developing relationships, working in a strategic role. And God is opening the door for them. . . . We are working on also establishing folks in another creative access country on the region very soon. . . . I wish I could be more open about what's happening; but in addition to placing people in areas with unreached people, we are also developing radio programs and other materials for them.

One of the other things that we're really excited about and seeing more of . . . is reaching people through daily relationships—neighbors right next door who are from unreached people groups. We rub shoulders with them every day. . . . When we do that, we are seeing people having a curiosity about who we are and what we believe and being drawn to Christ.

We're trying to take this to a broader scale to all the cities of our region. We have more than 100 cities on our region with more than a million people and with less than three percent Christian population. One of the ways for us to enter is for Nazarenes to begin working in these areas as business professionals, medical professionals, teachers—basically any occupation—then serve and live in community and develop friendships.

**Narrator:** Why must the church use a new mentality in reaching unreached people groups?

**Missionary:** One reason is the urgency of the task and the overwhelming numbers of people. . . . Many countries don't accept people on missionary visas or, in many cases, on NGO (non-governmental organization) visas.

**Narrator:** What can someone in their own city do to build such cross-cultural relationships?

**Missionary:** The first thing people need to do is overcome fear; love is the key. The opposite of love is not hate, it's fear. We must see people as people. Then taking it to the next level, inviting them to coffee, to tea, inviting them into your home. Once you get to know people, the fear goes away.

### Discussion of “Forgotten People Around the World and Next Door”

- Did anything surprise you about the missionary's definition of an unreached people group?
- Why is the traditional missionary approach ineffective in many areas of this particular region?
- Can you think of an unreached people group in your own neighborhood or community?

### Who are the Poqomchi' people?

- The Poqomchi' [POH-kohm-chee] people are one of 23 distinct indigenous groups of Mayan descent in Guatemala.
- There are approximately 50,000 to 100,000 Poqomchi', making them one of the smallest and least-developed groups in the country.
- A majority of these people are subsistence farmers. Most Poqomchi' children do not attend school past the sixth grade.
- They are a superstitious group of people who live in fear of punishment from God or from other gods in which they believe.

### Facts about the Poqomchi'

- They have the highest rate of maternal mortality in the country. They live in the southern part of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.

- Literacy rate—in the Spanish language: 15 percent; in the Poqomchi' language: 1 percent.
- Thirty-five percent of this people group lives in extreme poverty.
- Why are the Poqomchi' considered "Forgotten People"?

For decades the Church of the Nazarene ministered among Spanish-speakers and other indigenous groups in Guatemala, but the Poqomchi' people felt left out due to their language differences.

The Poqomchi' people also experience frustration because they do not have religious materials in their own language.

Pastors have to read the Bible in Spanish to their congregations and then translate it into Poqomchi'.

#### ASK

- Was there ever a time in your life when you felt overlooked? How did you react?
- Have you ever been in a place where you couldn't understand what people were saying around you? What were your emotions at that time?
- Can you think of people who you pass by on a regular basis but don't really "see"?

#### How has the Church of the Nazarene responded to the forgotten Poqomchi' people?

The Church of the Nazarene actually began a Poqomchi' Bible translation more than 30 years ago. In 1983, the New Testament was completed. However, in 2000 the Guatemalan government adopted a standardized written alphabet for the country's Mayan languages. Thus, a new translation of the Bible was needed.

In October of 2009, the final translated version of the entire Bible in Poqomchi' was sent to the printers, and a moving Bible dedication celebration was held in November. Volunteer missionaries Alissa and Giovanni Monterroso commented, "What an amazing thing to see thousands weeping in gratitude to the Lord and begging in hope for a new day for the Poqomchi' people."

With the Bible translation completed, work moved to the translation of the JESUS Film. Because of the low literacy rate among this group of people, the film is a powerful evangelistic and discipleship tool for the Poqomchi'. As a result, the Bible translators—a father/daughter team—eagerly agreed to work on the translation of the film script.

Instead of having a full set of dramatized voices, a single-voice narration was produced. This helped keep the cost down and sped up production for a language with a small number of speakers.

Now the Poqomchi' people have two powerful Christian resources to help them continue their growth in the Lord.

(Source: *NCN News*, October 8, 2009)

#### Do something that matters. (Get Involved!):

- Consider these passages for reflection: Joshua 1:9, Psalm 107:1, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 40:31, Matthew 25:40 and 45, and Psalm 119:105.
- Encourage your church to participate in the Poqomchi' CAUSE found in this volume of *Living Mission*.
- Purposefully choose to say hello to someone you might never notice in your normal comings and goings. Perhaps it's the person cleaning your office or the individual who mows your lawn. See what difference a kind word can make.
- Consider going on a ministry trip through JESUS Film Harvest Partners. Visit [www.JFHP.org](http://www.JFHP.org) for more details.

#### Conclusion

God cares about people—in every color, shape, size, and location of the world. As Christians, we must be more intentional about getting outside our own little boxes to see the overlooked people around us. Who bags our groceries? Who delivers our mail? Who cleans up after us at a restaurant? Who needs someone to simply smile and say hello?

Christ purposefully chose to see and know those around Him. He ate in their homes. He talked with them along the road. He taught them from the hillside.

Who can we notice today?

#### Prayer Points

- Thank God for the many people who worked tirelessly to complete both the translation of the Bible in Poqomchi' and the translated script for the JESUS Film. Pray for God to bless their work.
- Pray that God will raise up strong Christian leaders among the Poqomchi' people to help train and disciple the next generation.
- Pray that God shows us as a church where other forgotten people are living and how we can reach out to them with the Gospel.
- Ask God to open your eyes to someone around you who might be overlooked. Then ask how you can show kindness to that person.

## Information Sheet

### In God's Image—The Poqomchi' of Guatemala

Are there people who often escape my notice? Do I remember the face of the cashier at the grocery store? Do I go past a neighbor's house every day and not know the names of those who live there? When I think about the people for whom Christ gave His life, do I forget some of them?

#### LEARN THE FACTS

- The Poqomchi' are an indigenous people of Mayan descent in Guatemala.
- Numbering approximately 140,000, the Poqomchi' are one of the smallest and least-developed groups in the country.
- Most are subsistence farmers; 35 percent live in extreme poverty.
- Most children do not attend school past sixth grade.
- Literacy in Spanish is 15 percent.
- The Poqomchi' are superstitious and fear punishment from their gods.

#### WHY ARE POQOMCHI' 'FORGOTTEN'?

- For more than 100 years, the Church of the Nazarene has ministered in Guatemala to Spanish-speaking people and other indigenous groups, but many Poqomchi' spoke an unknown dialect.
- They have not had religious materials or a complete Bible in their own language.
- Because of language barriers, spiritual and compassionate ministries to the Poqomchi' were ineffective.

#### REMEMBERING THE POQOMCHI'

- In 2009, the entire Bible was translated into the Poqomchi' dialect.
- The JESUS Film was recorded with a Poqomchi' narration, also in 2009.
- These resources will open the door for many other ministries to this forgotten people group.

#### GET INVOLVED

- Begin reaching out to the "forgotten" people in your sphere of influence.
- Pray about going on a JESUS Film Harvest Partners Ministry Trip ([www.JFHP.org](http://www.JFHP.org)).

#### PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You that, even though we did not know or love You in our sin, You never forgot us. Thank You for sending Your Son to reconcile us to You. We ask that You would call and send believers who will minister to the Poqomchi' people. Please raise up strong leaders among these people who will train and disciple the next generation to expand Your kingdom among the Poqomchi'. Open our eyes to others we sometimes forget, so we can share Your love with them just as Jesus shared Your love with us. Amen.

## LESSON 4: What Is 'Enough'?—The Reality of Hunger and Poverty

### *PURPOSE*

To understand...

1. Poverty and need are the results of living in a fallen world
2. If we are people of faith, then we are children of Abraham and are God's blessing to the world
3. Exactly who is part of our community
4. We need to really think about the idea of "enough," so we can provide for those in need in our community

### **Preparation**

Prepare a recipe called UNIMIX, and serve it before or during the lesson. UNIMIX is a nutrient-dense "porridge" used in places like refugee camps and is designed to be easily absorbed by the fragile digestive systems of malnourished children.

The UNIMIX recipe (based on percentages) is 30 percent maize (or corn) meal, 10 percent oil, 10 percent milk powder (actual milk can be used instead of powder), 40 percent beans (mashed or ground), and 10 percent sugar.

### **Presentation**

Read Genesis 3:1-13. Say, "Adam and Eve wanted something not intended for them. Their selfishness led to the Fall of Man."

### **Discussion of "Hunger and Poverty":**

1. What causes us to store up for ourselves more than we need?
2. In Luke 10:27-37, Jesus tells us to care for our neighbors. When asked who our neighbors are, He told the story of the Good Samaritan. We often use the word "community" when speaking of our neighbors. Using this language, what groups of people should belong to our community?
3. Read Acts 2:42-47. What steps does our church/community need to take to reflect Christ's compassion found in the passage? What will be the hardest part of doing this?
4. In Exodus 16, the children of Israel were not to keep any of the provided food until morning, except for on the sixth day. That day, they were to collect and prepare enough for two days and then not collect any on the seventh day, as this was to be their Sabbath day of rest. God's instruction here sets a definition for the Israelites on what was "enough."
5. How do we decide what is "enough" for us today?

Make copies and hand out the Information Sheet (found at the end of this lesson).

### **Mission Story: A Place Called Skeleton**

Marcio Barbosa, from the Nilopolis Church of the Nazarene, near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, tells the following story.

The Nilopolis Church has a local ministry to the poverty-stricken area of Esquelto [es-KWEL-toh], a place known locally as "Skeleton." In Esquelto, most of the people live by going through the garbage heaps and finding materials to recycle. Each day a person can earn about 100 reais [hay-EYES]. But most people also spend 80 to 90 reais per day on drugs. This area is known as a major drug culture, even among children. There was no church or other community support in this area. So the Nilopolis Church entered the area and began an evangelism and social work to meet the people's physical and emotional needs. People from the church help the people who live in Esquelto to find Jesus through Scripture and through relationships developed between the people.

Esquelto—the Skeleton—is called this because so many people are involved in drugs that every day there are numerous deaths.

The church's burden for Esquelto began in the heart of Nilopolis's pastor who realized that the

practice of voodoo was so prominent there that one could sense the spiritual oppression. He was also aware that, while people had the opportunity to send their children to the community schools, the schools were in session for only half a day and very little education actually took place there. The pastor went to the church and shared this burden, and the church began to become involved in Esquelto.

The church in the United States helped provide resources, and now there is a church in the community. Every Saturday the Nilopolis Church goes to the Esquelto Church and gives out care bags, holds Vacation Bible School, or performs services in answer to various social and physical needs. This church has grown to 45 members through these services.

People from Nilopolis go daily, weekly, and monthly to Esquelto. The Nilopolis Church is building a free school in Esquelto since people cannot afford to pay for education. Because the entire culture of Esquelto is literally built on garbage, the people living there have no concept of basic health and cleanliness, so the people from Nilopolis teach basic housekeeping skills. The church teaches the residents about the effects of drugs; this is a very delicate and dangerous ministry because those who benefit from drug addictions are violently opposed to this ministry.

Through the ministry in Esquelto, one woman who has accepted Christ has been hired by the church in Nilopolis to keep the building clean. Another woman from Esquelto accepted Christ on the day they celebrated the opening of the church. They discovered she is an excellent teacher, and now she leads the teaching efforts in the school. The church has now been able to hire another person at the school who cooks meals for the children—breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

When asked what has caused the Nilopolis Church to begin and maintain these ministries, Marcio reports that it is in faithfulness to Christ's command to love our neighbors. Also, the church was built on the idea of a missionary vision; people need spiritual AND physical food so the church provides both. It's not useful to tell people Jesus can ease their pain if we don't do anything to fulfill God's desire in that regard. People must not only hear that God is different, they have to SEE that He is different and that His followers are obedient to easing the pain of their neighbors.

#### Discussion of "A Place Called Skeleton":

- What are some causes of poverty? (War, drought, overpopulation, loss of industrial jobs, increasing proportion of elderly people, immigrants, mental illness, etc.)
- What is your first response to the reality of poverty in Esquelto?
- How does the story of what the Nilopolis Church is doing remind you of similar stories you've heard from other Christian communities?
- How can we, as Christians, participate in the relief of poverty in our world? In our communities?

#### "Who are you calling poor?"

Everyone agrees that those who cannot afford to feed themselves are poor. There are many definitions of poverty. On the level of a worldwide discussion, "... poverty is now no longer understood only as an absolute threat to physical existence (subsistence poverty) but as the situation of people who do not achieve the standard of living that is usual in their own society and are therefore unable to participate in it" (Engbersen, 1999).

- According to this definition, the monetary requirement for full involvement in a society will differ from culture to culture. What is the monetary requirement for someone to participate fully in our society?
- In some societies, it requires more than just food, clothing, and shelter to fully participate. What does a standard of living that allows us to participate as equals in our society look like? What emotional and material things create a basic representation of some societies' standard of living? (Suitable education, modern means of communication, and technology like television, phones, and computers.)
- What activities or possessions do you feel lie beyond "full participation" in our society? (Expensive recreation activities, high-priced restaurants, numerous items of clothing well beyond our needs, etc.)

#### What is poverty?

Set out food items on a table to illustrate what a family in poverty in your area might eat. Note that foods filled with fat and lacking in nutrition often provide a staple for those in poverty. Fresh fruits,

vegetables, and meat are more expensive and do not make up a significant part of one's diet when in poverty.

Explain to your group that many times those living in poverty are actually overweight because of the high fat and starch content of low-cost foods. It can be expensive to eat healthy!

When trying to define poverty by defining an income amount creates many problems. First, full participation in a society fluctuates widely by region and culture. Terms like "full participation" or "needs" are open to interpretation. How would Jesus interpret these terms? When politics become involved, a simple redefinition of the poverty threshold could mean more people are suddenly defined as poor. Finally, it's hard to say what goods and services are really necessary in a developed society.

### Discussion

Ask for a volunteer, or choose someone from the audience ahead of time. Ask the person, "If you felt you had a need for a basic necessity with no financial means for acquiring it, how would you go about trying to get it?" How close to the top of options is "asking our faith community"?

- Given the problems of how we define need, how can we better define "need in our community"?
- If we are to care for the members of our community by making sure everyone has enough for his or her needs, how will we work together to accomplish this?
- What process do we need to establish to allow people to ask for help when they have a need? What responsibilities does this require of the rest of us?
- How will we work together to make sure the needs of our community are met? Will we give permission and take initiative to ask one another personal questions about the status of our wealth or needs?

### How the Church of the Nazarene has responded

The Church of the Nazarene was founded on the principle of passion for the poor in urban areas, as well as those in other areas of the world.\* Today, wherever you find Nazarenes ministering to those in need, you find the truest embodiment of the history of our church. In local churches around the world, we care for those in our communities. The local church can partner with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries to help meet the needs of those in its immediate community and beyond. Here are some of the ways this is done:

- Books in Mission, administered by Global Nazarene Publications, accepts donations of books to be used for training and ordination of local pastors, evangelism and outreach, and for ministry with children.
- Among a multitude of other efforts, the Nazarene Child Sponsorship program has built the Nazarene Street Kids' Center in Antananarivo, Madagascar, to provide education, nutrition, and medical services to the large population of families who spend their lives on the street.
- Local churches have discovered the need in their communities for a place to meet. Some loan their building as a youth center as well as a meeting space for the local police, housing associations, city council, and even cooking clubs where community residents can relax or engage in conversations about faith and life in a non-threatening way. Stories like these are repeated hundreds of times in Nazarene churches across the world.

\* See the work of Carl Banks in *Phineas Bresee: His Life in Methodism, the Holiness Movement, and the Church of the Nazarene*, Beacon Hill Press, Kansas City, 1995.

### Do something that matters. (Get Involved!):

- In order to learn the concept of "enough," challenge your group to sell or give away the extra things in their lives. Set aside any money raised for a Nazarene Compassionate Ministry Center (see <http://www.ncm.org>).
- Donate nonperishable foods and/or your time to a local soup kitchen or food bank.
- Host a meal and invite the congregation to a beans and rice lunch to promote awareness about hunger worldwide and about increasing understanding that much of the world does not experience the luxury of food variety. Ask for donations to help raise money to stop hunger.
- Organize a churchwide fast or share in a fast as a small group or Sunday School class. Skip

dessert, skip a meal, or fast meals for an entire day. Consider how many around the world get only one meal per day and many do not get to eat at all. (See [www.fastforchange.ca/fast\\_for\\_change.aspx](http://www.fastforchange.ca/fast_for_change.aspx) or [www.30hourfamine.org/naz/](http://www.30hourfamine.org/naz/) for more information.)

### Conclusion

Caring for others requires us to not only give of our material resources, but also to give of ourselves. Sometimes just acknowledging the person in need is acknowledging his or her humanity.

While in Christian circles we often allow those we trust to offer advice for spiritual growth, we do not allow others to help us define what is “enough” in our lives. Until we begin to work together to define the appropriate standard of living in our community, and how to redistribute any excess that comes our way, we cannot be said to truly be living in community.

### Prayer Points

- Pray for our faith communities around the world, that we all will respond to the needs around us by changing our standards of what is “enough” for us.
- Pray that Christians will understand and accept the role as God’s blessing to the world.
- Pray that Christians everywhere will have the courage to allow one another to speak into our lives regarding finances and material wealth, that together we may care for those whose needs are unmet.

## Information Sheet

### What Is 'Enough'?—The Reality of Hunger and Poverty

#### REAL STORIES

Nilopolis Church of the Nazarene, near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has opened ministry in the drug-ridden Esquelto, a community where people live on and make their income from a garbage dump. The church built a free school, created jobs, and offered classes on basic health and cleanliness, as well as the effects of drug use. The ministries are helping residents learn skills, improve their health, and gain an education.

#### LEARN THE FACTS

- 1.4 billion or 26 percent of the world population, live on less than \$1.25 a day, according to a 2008 World Bank report.
- 30 percent of child deaths globally are because of undernutrition, according to a 2008 World Health Organization report.
- In developed countries, often the least costly food is also the least healthy, creating health issues for many low-income individuals and families.

#### WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:35, NRSV)

#### GET INVOLVED

- Nazarene Compassionate Ministries has multiple projects in which individuals and churches can get involved, such as child sponsorship, digging clean water wells, microlending, and disaster response projects. Visit [www.ncm.org](http://www.ncm.org).
- Donate non-perishable food items and personal hygiene supplies to a soup kitchen or urban shelter ministry.
- Volunteer a day or two a month at your local food pantry.
- Fast a meal a week, and donate the money you would have spent to a local or international charity that feeds the hungry.
- Participate in the 30 Hour Famine ([www.30hourfamine.org/naz](http://www.30hourfamine.org/naz)).

#### PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for bringing to our attention Your devoted love for the poor and hungry. We ask You to help Your people around the world respond to those in need by living in a way that pleases You. Help us to understand what is “enough” for us. Give us a burden to become Your blessing to the world. In Jesus’ name, amen.

## LESSON 5: Evangelism

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### *PURPOSE*

To understand...

1. Evangelism happens in many different ways.
2. Evangelism is essentially living in a way that causes others to want to be like you.
3. We need to be prepared to describe our hope in Christ.

### Preparation

Related Scripture—Matthew 5:14-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 11:19; Proverbs 31:8; Luke 18:16

### Presentation

Have members of your group read the passages listed above.

### Discuss

- Consider Jesus' comment to the disciples that they would join him in fishing for men. Given all the complexities, planning, and maintenance that these professional fishermen would have been familiar with, how might they have interpreted Jesus' invitation?
- Understanding these as the words of Christ, what might this tell us about God? (Possible answers—He speaks in our language; He uses what we already know about to teach us something new; He cares about those who don't know Him.)
- Many years before the time of Christ, the Greeks had made a science of understanding the ways humans persuade one another. Today these same definitions are used in training, advertising, and marketing skills. The most effective type of advertising is "word-of-mouth." Some people love to tell others about certain products. It is likely that most of us at some time have been so impressed with a product that we've told others about it. What products have you liked so much that you told others about them?
- Which are you more likely to believe—when someone you don't know tries to convince you of something or when someone you trust tries to convince you?
- Essentially, evangelism is persuading others to accept that there is a better way to live, that accepting the life offered by Christ is superior to living for oneself. Sometimes God uses us to convince strangers through our sincerity. More often, though, our witness is through our daily interaction with those who've come to know us. No matter how often we ask others if they want to become Christians, what they hear is, "Do you want to be like me?" Are we living our lives in the presence of unbelievers and getting to know them? What can they see in our lives that will make their lives better?

### Mission Story: Compelled by Love

Stephane Tibi, along with his wife, Sandra, are missionaries in Réunion, an island that is part of the continent of Africa. Stephane was raised in a non-Christian home. One day while watching the movie *The Mission*, Stephane was moved by the story of a man who was transformed by love into a follower of Christ. When Stephane heard the passage from 1 Corinthians 13, "Love is patient, love is kind,..." he kept thinking about it over and over, not knowing where those words came from. His search ultimately led him to a bookstore where he and a merchant finally realized it was a passage from Scripture. That day Stephane began his love affair with Scripture, which led him to Christ.

Realizing the remarkable transformation God worked in his life, Stephane set out to tell everyone about his discovery. He realized that if he loved his neighbor, then he was obligated to tell him or her about this life-transforming message.

In his work in Africa, Stephane has learned that communicating in the cultural language of his friends is critical. In France when Stephane tried to tell someone about Christ, that person would say directly when he or she was not interested in hearing about it.

But in Africa, the culture mandates that one's interaction with others always be polite and respectful. Because of this, a person will usually answer "yes" to any question.

"Is the gas station east?"

"Yes."

"Is the gas station north?"

"Yes."

The answers are not deceitful, because if you travel in any direction, you will eventually come to a gas station. One must be careful in phrasing questions. If you want gas quickly, you must ask, "In what direction should I travel to get to a gas station quickly?"

When ministering to non-Christians, Stephane believes a person must ask questions that are relevant to the audience. In this case, that means open-ended questions rather than questions that can be answered "yes" or "no." An example of such a question is: "Why are you interested in the Christian faith?"

The methods of sharing the Gospel are varied, and how one shares the message depends on the situation. On one occasion Stephane wanted to minister to a young man with whom he was acquainted. Because the young man knew that Stephane had been working on some documents—visual representations of the Articles of Faith for the Church of the Nazarene—Stephane asked the man to look at a sample to see if it was right. As the two men went through the Articles of Faith together, Stephane explained the basic principles to the young man.

When asked for his advice about sharing Christ with our friends of different faiths, Stephane explains that it is important to look for transformed hearts in people before expecting them to live according to the principles of transformed lives. Asking people to change the way they dress or behave does not come before the transforming power of God has been able to work in their lives. If you have little opportunity to discuss the details of a new life, make sure the person to whom you are witnessing has a Bible so he or she has access to the transforming power of scripture.

When asked how one can be prepared to share one's faith, Stephane said he feels it is critical to commit specific passages of scripture to memory to better communicate what we know with ease. The way the first disciples shared the Gospel was by telling the stories of Jesus. That's how the Early Church received the gospels.

To tell someone in Africa about Christ, the stories of His life should be committed to memory so they can be told with simplicity. By opening the Bible and trying to read unfamiliar stories, God cannot use the witness effectively.

### Discussion of "Compelled by Love"

- Stephane Tibi suggests that effectively telling others about Christ cannot happen if we do not speak to people in the language of their cultures. Name some of the different cultures in your community from both a nationality perspective, as well as a generational perspective. How do you need to translate your words and ideas in order to communicate effectively with these cultures?
- How do you respond to Stephane's comments that we cannot effectively tell others about Christ if we have not committed scripture to memory?

### Fast facts about evangelism:

- Only 7 percent of newcomers to church will be from an unchurched background.\*
- 47 percent of first-time visitors come because someone invited them.\*
- The attitudes of the unchurched are not correlated with where they live, their gender, or their cultural background.\*\*
- Many of the unchurched are more concerned for their children than for themselves.\*\*

\*Myths and facts about evangelism and church growth. (n.d.). retrieved from [web]: <http://www.uscongregations.org/growth.htm>

\*\*Bery, R. (2010). Surprises about unchurched people. Retrieved from [web]:

<http://www.navigators.org/us/ministries/ethnic/ca/articles/Together%20Newsletters/items/Surprises%20About%20Unchurched%20People>

### Discussion

- Do you work to evangelize non-Christian people?
- Are you friends with non-Christian people?

If it is true that others will know we belong to Christ through our love, then these two questions are the same thing.

- How does this change your perception of what evangelism is, or how hard it is?
- How does this realization change your perspective on how to support others who minister in cross-cultural settings?
- How do we gain the trust required from our acquaintances to be allowed to influence their lives?

#### **What about the Church of the Nazarene?**

From the early days of our denomination, the Church of the Nazarene has viewed evangelism as the core reason for its existence. Over the last century this has manifested itself in many ways. We now have ongoing work in 156 world countries to spread the good news of Christ, establishing communities in those areas. In all Nazarene church communities, reaching the lost comes in as many forms as there are people—social programs, personal friendships, group outreach efforts. The act of living out our love for God is inseparable with our definition of Christ-followers. Evangelism encompasses everything we do as Christians and as a denomination.

#### **Do something that matters. (Get Involved!):**

If you are not in a place where you have contact with many non-Christians, find a way to make such contacts. For instance, volunteer to help with events in your community, such as those sponsored by the local library or community center. Be mindful of the work of those who are called to minister to different cultural groups, especially those in cultures hostile to Christianity.

#### **Conclusion**

Evangelism is simply revealing Christ to non-Christians. We are not responsible to change their hearts—that is God's responsibility. But we must be obedient to live out our Christianity so others see the good fruit in our lives and desire the peace that is evident.

#### **Prayer Points**

- Pray for Nazarene missionaries around the world who work in many jobs to reveal the love of God.
- Pray that Christians in your community will accept their main purpose in life as living out the love of God for all to see.

## Information Sheet

### Lesson 5: Evangelism

#### REAL STORIES

Raised in a non-Christian home in France, Stephane Tibi saw the movie, *The Mission*, and was so moved by the portrayal of a man transformed by love into a follower of Christ that Stephane also became a believer. He loved God so much that he wanted to tell anyone who would listen about Jesus, and God called Stephane to be a missionary. While ministering in Africa, Stephane is learning to communicate the possibility of hope in Christ in a way that is so relevant to the people in the culture where he lives.

#### LEARN THE FACTS

- 7 percent of new people in church will be from an unchurched background.
- 47 percent of first-time visitors come because someone invited them; 6 percent come for the first time because of advertising.
- Three strengths predict a church's growth: caring for youth and children, welcoming new people, attenders who participate in congregational life.
- 38 percent of new people report no follow-up from the church after their first visit.

Source: <http://www.uscongregations.org/growth>

#### WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY

"But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing." (2 Corinthians 2:14-15, NIV)

#### GET INVOLVED

- Befriend people who are not yet Christians at your workplace, school, community organization, or club. If you don't know any non-Christians, get involved in activities to meet them. Then love them as Jesus does.
- Join a personal evangelism team at your church.
- Pray daily for the people in your life who don't know Christ; ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you which people He is working in, so you won't miss an opportunity to share Jesus with them.

#### PRAY

Dear Heavenly Father, sometimes we need to be reminded that those who don't know You will spend eternity separated from You unless they have the chance to hear about Your great love. We don't always understand why You choose to use us to share that message with the world, but we want to take this responsibility seriously. Please awaken us to where and in whom You are revealing yourself, and alert us to the opportunities to join You by being salt and light among those dying apart from You. Amen.

## LESSON 6: Crisis

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### *PURPOSE*

To understand...

1. Loving our neighbors means helping them during times of crisis.
2. Crises create special opportunities to demonstrate God's love.
3. The Church of the Nazarene has dozens of ongoing projects around the world in which we can all become involved.

### Preparation

- Research the Internet to remind yourself of how many world crises have occurred in the past 12 months. Note the earthquakes, homicides, mudslides, forest fires, terrorist attacks, and other notable events that your group will remember.
- Download the most recent copy of the *NCM Magazine* at <http://www.ncm.org/magazine/> and review it for potential items to use that highlight this lesson.
- Related Scripture: Luke 10: 25-37; James 1:27

### Presentation

Ask members of your group to name all the large-scale disasters they can remember from the past year. Discuss how tragedy can seemingly become commonplace to the point that we begin to have a hard time recalling major cataclysmic events unless they happened to us or to someone we know personally.

In times of distress, our first instinct is to cry out; and once we mature, our second instinct often becomes trusting in a caregiver to provide in our times of distress. Recalling the large-scale crises we discussed a few minutes ago, what scenes from the news can you recall that might have been God or God's people providing for those in need? Did you recall individuals in flooded communities rescuing victims who were trapped in their homes or cars? Did you recall pictures of disaster relief in the form of shelters, medical treatment, or debris cleanup?

When a crisis occurs somewhere in the world, it provides yet another opportunity for God's people to become the living embodiment of His love for mankind through service.

In the wake of yet another world crisis, one individual reflected on an Internet discussion board: "God doesn't make any difference. Everything would happen exactly the same way if there were no God. So to say 'God is with us in our suffering' is meaningless. God makes zero practical difference to human lives or to the as-yet uncontrollable and destructive actions of the planet on which we live and universe we inhabit."<sup>1</sup>

While we acknowledge that God does not need us to fight His battles in the face of thinking such as this, it presents a practical problem for Christians. How can we be active, visible manifestations of God's love during times of world crisis? What kinds of responses from Christians damage the cause of Christ during times of tragedy?

<sup>1</sup> Maxwell, I. (2010, Jan. 14). Retrieved from:

[http://www.amazon.co.uk/tag/religion/forum/ref=cm\\_cd\\_search\\_res\\_ti?\\_encoding=UTF8&cdForum=Fx24A4CS3HPMJLK&cdMsgNo=12&cdPage=1&cdSort=oldest&cdThread=Tx2BQB144VUHYI3&cdMsgID=Mx19ZP22WD4F9LR#Mx19ZP22WD4F9LR](http://www.amazon.co.uk/tag/religion/forum/ref=cm_cd_search_res_ti?_encoding=UTF8&cdForum=Fx24A4CS3HPMJLK&cdMsgNo=12&cdPage=1&cdSort=oldest&cdThread=Tx2BQB144VUHYI3&cdMsgID=Mx19ZP22WD4F9LR#Mx19ZP22WD4F9LR)

### Mission Story: Responding With Love

Read aloud the following summary of the interview with Larry Bollinger, director of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries.

Whether it's factual or not, it seems the number of crises in the world is a growing trend. The Church of the Nazarene is often able to play a significant role, helping in times of crisis because it is a global denomination, established in more than 156 countries. So when Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) assists in times of crisis, it doesn't mean simply sending people from one country to

another to help. NCM actually organizes efforts in the target area by mobilizing local congregations. When we are at our best, this is the role we play. Whether we are facing multiple crises in different locations or not, we find ourselves engaging local church leaders to mobilize congregations for a response.

*Why is compassion such a strong part of our denominational efforts?*

Compassion comes from biblical history, but it is also deeply connected with the roots of our denomination. John Wesley was deeply concerned for the poor. That carried forward to the Church of the Nazarene's founding leaders. Much of the work of Phineas Bresee in urban Los Angeles and the action taken by our church in those days focused on issues of social justice for the poor. We have a deep heritage to live up to as a denomination. Social justice is central to our entire existence.

Even our name, Nazarene, comes from the fact that Jesus was from Nazareth—the wrong side of the tracks. If we really understand our Nazarene heritage, we realize that in following Jesus our core goal is ministering to the poor and oppressed.

*What has been our church's recent response to crisis? What did it look like, for instance, in the wake of the earthquake in Haiti in 2010?*

It started as it often does, with the local Nazarene congregations—many of them also victims of the earthquake—seeing the great need around them. We found people like our Haitian NCM coordinator, Walliere Pierre, out in the streets, delivering water and supplies and helping rescue people.

This is a great example of why the Nazarene denomination can be effective in times of crisis. Because we already exist in so many world areas, we have a lot of people in those areas who can help. In Haiti alone we have 120,000 Nazarenes in 555 congregations. Many other organizations have to mobilize and organize before they can even reach a disaster site. But we can usually mobilize immediately within the area of the difficulty.

Because we are on the scene so quickly, we often find Christians from other organizations to join us in our efforts. In Haiti we had people donating planes and pilots to supply local relief workers. Heart to Heart International wanted to help but didn't have anyone in the country, so they worked through Nazarene Haitians and missionaries to provide medical relief. Other agencies wanted to deliver supplies but had no place to ship them. So we organized to receive those supplies for them. It is amazing how just being in the location where tragedy strikes allows the church to be a conduit of God's grace.

*How has this worked in other world crises?*

Another example is the tsunami that struck Asia a few years ago. If you recall, the tsunami hit about a dozen countries in that part of the world. The Church of the Nazarene was already in some of those countries. It is fascinating how the Church mobilizes in each tragedy. It always happens differently, depending on the maturity of the churches and the Christians in those areas. For instance, during the tsunami, well-organized Nazarene districts in India mobilized immediately.

But in Indonesia, where the population is almost entirely comprised of people of another faith, the few Nazarenes there had far different cultural reactions to the disaster. Our work in Indonesia is largely evangelistic, and the young Christians were afraid of engaging the people because they fear for their lives. We learned from the situation and went from being project-based to being education-based, and the people in our churches there responded wonderfully. They were so effective in developing relationships that when an earthquake hit there a year later, those churches had already mobilized to assist the community before we contacted them.

*Why is Christ's gospel of love revealed so well during times of crisis versus during the ordinary times of life?*

This is reminiscent of the story of the man who was blind from birth. The people asked Jesus who it was that had sinned and caused this man to be born blind. Jesus turned the question from one of judgment to one displaying God's grace. So when He healed the man, He was able to say, "This happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life" (John 9:2-3, NIV).

In times of disaster when the church responds correctly, the same thing happens. We don't have to sit around and defend God or make excuses as to why bad things happen. In any situation, when

Christians respond with love and grace, we can demonstrate God's goodness, and people will be able to love and praise Him because of the kind of people He has made us.

#### Discussion of "Responding With Love"

- The heritage of the Church of the Nazarene is based on demonstrating God's love through social justice and holiness evangelism. Where do you see the church living up to this identity today?
- Describe when you have felt that anything you do in response to a crisis is pointless.
- In what ways does seeing how organizations affect change and provide solutions during crises help you understand that we can all play a part in times of need?

Please visit the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Web site to view some of the projects in which the Church of the Nazarene is participating globally. As of Summer 2010, the following number of projects were listed in a number of world areas:

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| Africa—19                                      | Mexico/Central America—4 |
| Asia-Pacific—12                                | Middle East—9            |
| Caribbean—11                                   | South America—7          |
| Commonwealth of Independent States<br>(CIS)—14 | South Asia—16            |
| Europe—5                                       | USA/Canada—4             |

Some of these projects include providing transportation, child development centers, blockmaking machines, orphan support, water wells, refugee projects, Madagascar Street Kids Center, São Tomé Fishing Boats, earthquake relief, alcohol and drug prevention and recovery, Joma Bridge project, Solomon Islands disaster relief, HIV/AIDS prevention, hot lunch program, post-hurricane rebuilding projects, shoes program, programs for the elderly, prison ministry, vocational training, and many more.

#### Facts about Nazarene disaster relief in Haiti:

- In one day, NCM mobilized volunteers to offload more than 38,000 pounds of food.
- The effort included a coordination of 20 Haitian churches to reach 5,000 individuals.
- Haitian Nazarene churches mobilized as counseling training centers to prepare people to offer grief and trauma counseling.
- NCM purchased 115,000 pounds of rice, oil, and fish to distribute in six Nazarene districts.
- Prior to the earthquake, NCM already had begun water drilling operations in Haiti. Since the disaster, it has expanded efforts to purchase equipment to increase the production of these wells.

#### Do something that matters. (Get Involved!):

There are so many Nazarene programs going on around the world that it is a challenge to keep people aware of them all. Keep up with what's going on and knowing how you can help. Subscribe to the free quarterly *NCM Magazine* (available here: <http://www.ncm.org/magazine/>). Become familiar with its Web site at <http://www.ncm.org/> to learn about new and ongoing projects in which you can get involved.

#### Conclusion

Thousands of Nazarenes around the world are mobilized daily to assist in numerous ways to relieve the struggles of their neighbors. Don't wait until disaster strikes to become involved. Crises happen every day, and NCM and Nazarene Missions International are happy to help you get involved in being God's hands to others.

#### Prayer Points

- Pray for individuals who are working to ease the suffering of people living in crisis.
- Pray that God will inspire us to become involved in programs for which He has given us a burden through organizations like NCM and Nazarene Missions International.

## Information Sheet

### Crisis

#### REAL STORIES

When the January 2010 earthquake devastated Port-au-Prince, Haiti, a network of 550 Nazarene churches and 120,000 Nazarenes were already in place to respond to the national crisis. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) helped the churches mobilize in response to the massive needs, sending medical relief, food, water, clothes, and personal hygiene items.

#### LEARN THE FACTS

Through NCM, the Church of the Nazarene has responded to needs in 156 world areas:

- Post-hurricane rebuilding projects
- Ministry to refugees
- Drilling clean water wells
- Drug and alcohol addiction rehabilitation
- HIV/AIDS prevention
- Prison ministry
- Vocational training
- Earthquake, flood, tsunami, and other natural disaster relief
- Much more

#### WHAT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY?

When Christians respond to people devastated by crisis, we demonstrate God's love and goodness.

#### TAKE ACTION

- Organize your church, small group, children's or youth group to assemble Crisis Care Kits (<http://nazarenemissions.org/10218/story.aspx>).
- If you have the ability to volunteer in crisis relief on short notice, sign up with Nazarene Disaster Response (NDR): [ndr@nazarene.org](mailto:ndr@nazarene.org).
- Those with medical training can join a medical relief team through Nazarene Medical Organization (NMO): <http://www.ncm.org/act/healthcare/join>.
- Give to a disaster relief project or look up other ways to serve: <http://www.ncm.org/give/ncm/>.

#### PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we sometimes feel bombarded with bad news on a daily basis. We thank you for being the Good News that brings healing to the world. We are so privileged that You have chosen to work through us, Your people, to bring physical, emotional, and spiritual relief to those suffering from crises around our world. Please reveal the opportunities You have for us to lovingly serve those in need and motivate us to act. Amen.

## *Living Mission* CAUSE: Leadership Education and Advancement Program

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### Preparation

Instructions—Briefly describe the importance of education around the world.

- Everyone deserves a quality education. Yet right now 75 million children and 774 million adults are missing out.
- Most of the children and adults who lack an education are from some of the poorest countries in the world.
- Education helps reduce poverty. When people go to school, they are able to eventually earn more money and support their families.
- Education is essential to improving health, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and enabling families to better cope with illness.
- Everyone, no matter where they are born, deserves a chance to receive a quality education.

(Information adapted from <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/why-education-for-all/millionsmissout/>)

### Presentation

Currently more than 13,500 children in 80 countries are enrolled in the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' (NCM) Child Sponsorship program. Communication between the child and his or her sponsor is encouraged and recommended.

This program is designed to help fund education for children and young people worldwide. The Leadership Education and Advancement Program is a scholarship program that gives sponsored children who show exemplary leadership the chance to continue their education and receive leadership training. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries envisions a future where once-sponsored children are effective, equipped, and influential Nazarene leaders, using their gifts to transform society for the kingdom of God.

Discuss: (useful for a small-group setting)

- We know it says in the Bible that we are to care for those in need. Why do you think many Christians avoid that responsibility?
- Discuss Jesus' feelings toward children and reflect on whether Christians today echo those feelings.
- What are some ways you've seen Christians reach out to children both locally and globally?
- How can you as an individual, as well as your church, participate in a child's life?

### Practical ways your congregation can get involved

1. Educate to increase awareness: Talk to friends, neighbors, and coworkers about the need for education worldwide. Share with them about NCM's Child Sponsorship Program and the Leadership Education and Advancement Program as ways to help.
2. Educate by raising money to help. Have a book sale or set up an auction. Involve the entire church and explain how their support will help children receive a good education.
3. Invest in children:

- A. For \$25 a month, you can sponsor a child.

Nazarene Child Sponsorship is a relationship between you and a child in need. Your sponsorship provides the opportunity for education, social and physical development, and spiritual growth. Specific activities of our child development program include academic tutorials, skills training, medical and dental checkups, spiritual development through Bible lessons and worship, parenting seminars.

You can develop a relationship with your sponsored child by writing to your child and receiving letters in return.

Sponsor a child today! You can do this online at <http://www.cs.ncm.org>

- B. With the Leadership Education and Advancement Program, child sponsorship graduates who have shown exemplary leadership ability and choose to continue their education in their own countries are assisted through scholarships.

With your help and financial support, a child can grow into a dynamic Nazarene leader for the future! For more information, go to <http://www.ncm.org/give/childdevelopment/leap/>.

### Conclusion

Education is instrumental in tackling poverty. When individuals are given the opportunity to learn basic life and literacy skills, economies grow faster and poverty rates decline. When people go to school, they are provided a greater opportunity to earn money and support their families.

### Prayer Points

- Pray that God raises up more people for the 2,500 children still in need of sponsors.
- Pray for the ongoing education and discipleship of children and young people throughout the world, helping them to thrive as Christian adults, raising children of their own in the way of Christ.
- Pray that God blesses your congregation with a compassionate heart toward children and young people, both at home and around the world.

Specific request for Nazarene congregations and educational institutions:

- Pray for the Church of the Nazarene's educational institutions (Bible schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries) as they prepare students for leadership.
- Pray for your local congregation's ministries to children. Pray that they:
  - Provide effective and empowering ministries to the whole child—physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually
  - Articulate Christian positions on current social justice issues that affect children
  - Connect children to the heart of the mission and ministry of the faith community
  - Disciple children and train them to disciple others
  - Equip parents to nurture the spiritual formation of their children

## *Living Mission CAUSE:* **Forgotten People (the Poqomchi' of Guatemala)**

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### Preparation

Include Poqomchi' facts (from the accompanying lesson) in your bulletin or church newsletter for several weeks.

### Presentation

#### 1. Introduction Ideas

- a. Give greetings with incorrect words.

Let me share with you what it might be like for the Poqomchi' people to sit in a service that is not in their primary language:

Today I tomato you in the banana name of Lily Jesus. I have pineapple news for hibiscus. For God so cucumbered the world that he zucchinied his only rose, that whoever spinach in him potato not perish but have watermelon life.

Do you know what I was saying? You probably understood part of it. What I was trying to say was:

Today I greet you in the holy name of Christ Jesus. I have good news for you. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

- b. Ask the following questions

How many of you own:

- o A Bible?
- o A devotional book?
- o More than one devotional book?

Until recently the Poqomchi' people did not have a complete Bible because it had not been translated into their language. If the Bible had never been translated into English, how helpful would a Greek Bible be to you? What if the only time you could experience the Word of God was at church when it was read by an interpreter?

It is hard to believe in our technologically advanced world that a whole people group wouldn't have the Bible in their own language. These people were truly forgotten.

2. Show "Forgotten People: The Poqomchi' of Guatemala" PowerPoint presentation, if possible

3. Share background information on the Poqomchi' people:

- o For decades the Church of the Nazarene has worked in Guatemala to "make Christlike disciples." But the Poqomchi' people were often unintentionally overlooked.
- o The Poqomchi' is one of 23 distinct indigenous groups of Mayan descent in Guatemala.
- o They are one of the smallest and least-developed groups in the country.
- o The area where the Poqomchi' live ranks second highest (75 percent) in poverty nationally.
- o A majority are farmers, growing predominantly corn, their main food. Other common foods include beans, chicken, turkey, and chilies.
- o Women weave textiles on backstrap looms as they have for centuries. They also make products from the locally grown maguey plant.
- o Most Poqomchi' children do not attend school past the sixth grade. They are limited by access to educational facilities and the financial impact "higher" education has on the family.
- o The Poqomchi' are a religious people who live in fear of punishment from God or from the other gods in which they believe.

According to missionary Giovanni Monterroso, the following challenges exist:

- o Generally the people have felt left out or overlooked by Christian organizations.

- The Poqomchi' people experience frustration because they have not had biblical resources in their own language.
  - Pastors have to read the Bible in Spanish to the congregation and translate it into Poqomchi'.
  - When asked what makes the Poqomchi' people different from other people groups, the response is "our language—our language is what identifies us as Poqomchi'."
4. How is the Church of the Nazarene responding?
- In the 1970s, Nazarene missionaries Betty and William Sedat began training a Poqomchi' Bible translation team in Tactic, Guatemala. Jose Maria Quej was one of the translation team members. For the last 20 years, he and his daughter, Adelina, have been the lead translators for the Poqomchi' Bible project, now coordinated through the Bible Society of Guatemala. To complicate matters, in 2000 the government of Guatemala adopted a standardized written alphabet for the country's Mayan languages. The Bible translation had to be revised.
  - In October 2009, the final version of the entire Bible in Poqomchi' was finished and sent to the printers.
  - With the translation of the Bible into Poqomchi', the door has been opened to develop evangelistic and discipleship resources.
  - This translation allowed the JESUS Film to be the first evangelistic tool translated in the language of the Poqomchi'.
  - The Poqomchi' people are asking for more resources in their language.
  - Future plans indicate a desire to create a Poqomchi' district for the Church of the Nazarene.
5. Practical ways your congregation can get involved
- The Poqomchi' people need resources to learn about God's love, to grow in their walk with Christ, and to disciple others. You can support this work through praying, discipling, giving, and educating.
- a. Praying
    - Pray for leaders and missionaries in Guatemala as they seek to reach out to the Poqomchi'.
    - Pray for the hearts of the Poqomchi' people to be receptive to God's love.
    - Pray for the new believers to grow strong in their faith.
  - b. Discipling
    - Plan a JESUS Film Harvest Partners Ministry trip to deliver film equipment to the Poqomchi' for ongoing outreach.
    - Plan a Work & Witness trip to build a church.
  - c. Giving
    - Give to help develop other materials in the Poqomchi' language.
    - Sponsor a child in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala (where the Poqomchi' live).
  - d. Educating
    - Tell others about the Poqomchi' people and seek to recognize the forgotten people around you every day.
    - Put on ragged clothes and sit quietly in a public place for 30 minutes. Count the number of people who make eye contact with you.
6. Dialogue Questions (useful for a small group setting)
- How does it feel to be ignored?
  - How would you feel if you were always overlooked?
  - Who are some people we often overlook? (Possible answers—janitor, hotel maid, restaurant server, etc.)

## 7. Needs of the Poqomchi'

When asked to identify their top needs, the Poqomchi' people responded with the following:

- Literature—School materials, discipleship materials, hymnals, and books in the Poqomchi' language.
- Training Resources—Materials that will provide leadership training for laity, clergy, and church planters.
- Building Projects—Work & Witness teams are needed to help the Poqomchi' people.
  - For a current listing of projects and more information, visit <http://www.livingmission.com>.
  - Information is available at [www.jfhp.org](http://www.jfhp.org).

## Greatest Need of the Poqomchi' People

Areas of need for the Poqomchi' people will develop and change over time. A gift to the greatest need fund for the Poqomchi' people will be administered by the Mexico and Central America (MAC) Central Field strategy coordinator to the area of greatest need for the Poqomchi' people.

## Conclusion

We are commanded in Matthew 27:19 to “go make disciples of all nations.” The Church of the Nazarene has lived out this command for more than 100 years. Jesus remembers the people we forget.

## References:

Giovanni and Alissa Monterroso—Missionaries on the Mexico and Central America Region Fact source  
<http://www.pokomchihope.org/>

## *Living Mission CAUSE:* **I Am One: Reaching the Lost with God's Love**

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The "I Am One" CAUSE features global work occurring today that invites people into a personal relationship with Christ.

### *PURPOSE*

To understand...

1. People matter to God.
2. Billions of people don't know about Jesus.
3. God wants to use us to help reach the lost with His love.
4. You can make a difference today.

### Preparation

**Four to six weeks before the lesson presentation:** Invite individuals to share their personal testimonies each week. Have them begin their testimonies with the phrase: "My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I Am One who met Christ...." finishing with how they met Christ, keeping the length to fewer than 50 words. This is also a presentation option for the day of the event, so you can invite different people for the promotion and the event.

**Two or three weeks prior:** Select a visual and creative way to represent the multitude of lost people in the world. Use 275 items to represent the 2.75 billion unreached people. Each item represents 10 million individuals. Idea options:

- Display the items and a jar with slips of paper and pens next to them. Post a sign nearby that reads, "What do these represent? Write your name and your guess on a slip of paper and place it in the jar." Have someone sift out the correct responses and place them back in the jar for a drawing on the day of the CAUSE. A small prize can be awarded to the winner.
- Place 275 candies in a jar; each one representing 10 million unreached people. The variety of colors represents the diversity of the people groups. Invite the people to guess the number of candies in the container. Give a gift on the presentation day to the person who guesses closest to the correct number.
- 275 helium balloons in a variety of colors.
- Place 275 dinner rolls in baskets with the theme: "Help share the bread of life!"
- Decorate a Christmas tree with 275 ornaments. Have individuals donate \$3.00 for an ornament, taking it home and using it as a reminder to pray for the 10 million people the ornament represents. A USD\$3.00 investment in JESUS Film Harvest Partners (JFHP) will help one soul meet Jesus.
- Stack 275 coffee cups on a table.
- Use your own creativity.

### *Coffee House Theme*

**Several weeks before** (length of time will depend on venue)—Plan for a coffee house kick-off. Secure a local coffee house for a private event or set up a room or area in the church with a coffee house theme that includes tables, chairs, and a coffee bar. Plan a coffee-tasting event, and invite noted coffee drinkers in your group to make their own special blend. Attendees can vote for their favorite coffee. Invite musicians in the church to provide live coffee house-style music, or make it an "Open Mic Night" in which people perform. You may discover some people with hidden talents, or you may have some amusing results. Invite the youth and children to sing or perform drama. Unless you are using the "Open Mic Night" option, verify who will be performing.

**Three weeks before**—Ask a local coffee shop to donate large coffee cups—some to be used to receive the offering and others with lids for children to collect donations.

**Two weeks before**—Give coffee cups to the children to collect donations to help reach the lost.

Historical data indicates that for a USD\$3.00 investment in God's work through JESUS Film Harvest Partners (JFHP), one person can meet Jesus. The cost of an average latte is USD\$3.00.

#### Week of the event:

1. Decorate and set up for coffee house.
2. Consider the list of people who will participate in the coffee house—music, drama, etc.—and determine a program. This does not need to be printed; just make sure there is no break between participants.
3. Remind the children to bring their coffee cups back.
4. Recruit helpers to read the team testimonies from the CAUSE lesson on the day of the event.

#### Day of the event:

1. Display the following Web site (<http://www.worldometers.info/population/>) on a screen throughout the presentation, if possible.
2. Have a ceremony or march during the time the children bring the cups forward with their offerings.
3. Receive an offering in the coffee cups donated from the local coffee shop.
4. Give the coffee cups to individuals to use as “banks” to collect change for their monthly gift.

#### Presentation

1. Invite individuals to share their personal testimonies at the event. Have them begin their testimonies with the phrase: “My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I Am One who met Christ...” finishing with how they met Christ, keeping the length to fewer than 50 words.
2. Briefly describe the plight of those who don't know Jesus. “You see before you 275 (candies, balloons, rolls). Each one of these represents 10 million people. These items represent the 2.75 billion unreached people in the world.”  
“The Joshua Project defines an unreached people group as ‘a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize this people group.’ These are people with names and souls. People who don't choose Christ will be lost for eternity.”  
(If using the Worldometer Web site: “The counter you see on the screen shows how the population of the world is steadily increasing. This counter and these items represent people waiting to have a chance to choose Christ. Even though millions have met Jesus, there is still an estimated 41 percent of the world's population who do not have a personal relationship with Christ. We seek to reach one more country, one more people group, and one more person.”)
3. Share a brief history of JESUS Film Harvest Partners. One way the Church of the Nazarene helps to reach the lost in “one more country” is through the JESUS Film. In 1997, Campus Crusade for Christ approached Dr. Louie Bustle, then director of World Mission (now Global Mission) for the Church of the Nazarene, about partnering with them to show the JESUS Film to people around the world.

Nazarenes were selected because of their strong, global missionary presence. The infrastructure already existed in priority areas to reach the lost, disciple new believers, and start new churches.

Dr. Bustle saw the strategic opportunity such a partnership offered. An agreement was forged at the Campus Crusade JESUS Film Project offices in San Clemente, California, in August 1997. This was the first partnership of its kind using the JESUS Film. Never before had a denomination committed to make the JESUS Film a main strategy for evangelism. The agreement was the first step in one of the most effective evangelistic strategies ever undertaken by the Church of the Nazarene.

JESUS Film Harvest Partners is the result of that partnership and is the Nazarene arm of the Body of Christ using the JESUS Film and other tools for evangelism, follow-up, church development, leadership training, and pastoral education.

#### Facts about the JESUS Film

- Based on the Gospel of Luke, the JESUS Film was sponsored and financed by Campus Crusade for Christ International in 1978.
- It is said to be the most accurate depiction of the life of Christ ever produced.

- Nearly every word spoken by Christ is taken directly from scripture.
- People hear the Gospel in their first language, because the film is translated into more than 1,090 languages. Each new language allows the love of Jesus to be shared with one more people group.
- Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose-Driven Life*, said, “The JESUS Film is the most effective evangelism tool in history.”

#### Share about the work of JESUS Film Harvest Partners

- JESUS Film Harvest Partners teams are made up of three to five nationals who take the JESUS Film in their own language to the people of their culture.
- The work is worldwide with more than 300 Nazarene teams and activity in more than 100 countries.
- Most teams work in one village or area for one month, showing the JESUS Film multiple times, following up with viewers, training leaders, and helping set up Nazarene preaching points to nurture new believers. Some locations are so remote that no electricity is available. Teams use generators, solar power, and hand-cranked tools for ministry. Equipment for teams is delivered by groups who take ministry trips to assure the resources are safely transported. Churches, families, or other groups may fund an equipment set and deliver it to a priority country on a ministry trip. Two-thirds of the world’s population can’t, won’t, or don’t read. Many pastors around the world don’t read, and they need tools for oral learners. JESUS Film Harvest Partners works with more than a dozen ministries to share God’s love with the lost. Several partners supply tools, such as the EvangeCube, the Proclaimer, and the evangelism soccer ball. The JESUS Film and other tools have created a vast harvest and multiple testimonies of changed lives.

### Mission Story: Testimonies from the Teams

Share some or all of the following team testimonies. Identify several helpers to read them. Use age-appropriate and gender-appropriate readers.

#### *Prison Ministry—Kenya (Africa Region)*

“The convicted prisoner leads praise and worship,” said the team member in Kenya. “We had the privilege to minister to inmates in a local prison. It was a moving experience when one of the prisoners, Mr. Ali, explained his ordeal and why he was imprisoned. As we set up the equipment and showed the film, Mr. Ali was so moved. He testified that, had he known Christ earlier in his life, he would have made better choices. We told him there is always hope in Christ when we accept Him as Lord and Savior. Before we left the prison, Mr. Ali was a new believer in Christ. He now leads the praise and worship team at the prison. Through Mr. Ali’s witness and changed life, many prisoners are beginning to see the light of Christ.”

#### *They Will Come—Philippines (Asia-Pacific Region)*

“God made Mr. Rudy a promise,” said the team member in the Philippines. “We thank God for preparing this place for the JESUS Film showing. He prepared the hearts of the people He called to serve Him. In spite of the weather conditions and the hardness of other religious beliefs, God speaks in a very special way. After watching the film, Mr. Rudy testified that God speaks through His Word. One night Mr. Rudy was reading the Bible and received a message from God saying, ‘Someday they will come to you.’ Praise God, He has fulfilled His promise through the coming of the 32 JESUS Film teams to this area! Mr. Rudy is now leading a Bible study in his home.”

#### *Changed at 12—Dominican Republic (Caribbean Region)*

“My name is Jose. I am 12 years old. I would like to explain what occurred in my life, but I have no words. It was something very special. I felt Jesus touching my heart and taking out the bad things. I am free in Jesus.”

*Demon-possessed No More—Bangladesh (Eurasia Region)*

“We felt she was possessed by a demon,” said the team member in Bangladesh. “Rob’s wife could not sleep. She would wake up screaming, trembling, crying, and making grumbling sounds. We laid our hands on her and anointed her with oil. We commanded the demon to leave Rob’s wife in the mighty name of Jesus. Over the next three days, we continued to pray for her. On the third day, Rob came to us saying, ‘Jesus has cured my wife completely. Jesus is God indeed! I have told the others about His mighty power, and our people are interested in following Jesus. My wife and I have decided to serve Jesus as our Lord and Savior.’ As a result of the miraculous healing, an additional 20 men and women also chose to believe in Jesus as Lord of their lives. A new church has been born, and God’s name is being praised!”

*So Far Away—Guatemala (Mexico/Central America Region)*

“I give thanks to the Lord for the JESUS Film team that came to be with us in our community,” said Sebastian. “Almost no one comes to this place because we are so far and hard to reach. In the same way, I felt I was far from the Lord and not able to be reached. However, when I watched the JESUS Film, I started thinking about my life. The team member talked to me about Jesus, and now I am a believer in Christ. I will live my life for the Lord until the end of my days.”

*The Father’s Heart—Peru (South America Region)*

“My name is Yerso, and I am 18 years old. My mother has long known the truth of God, but my father did not. My father would not allow us to go to church. Often my parents would fight over this issue. A while ago, my father’s heart softened, and he began to allow us to go to church. When we heard the JESUS Film would be shown, we asked the brothers to invite my father to watch the film on the giant screen in our community. My father attended, and we all have received Christ in our lives and belong to the family of God.”

*Grandfather’s Voice—Zuni Indian Showing (USA/Canada Region)*

“We set up the film at the Zuni tribal headquarters along the main street,” said the workers in New Mexico. “Many cars travel this route, and we had 80 to 100 people in cars, watching the story of JESUS in the Zuni language. One young man named Michael stopped by to share his story. He said he heard his grandfather’s voice as he was passing by. This caught his attention since his grandfather is now in heaven. He told us that his grandfather had narrated the JESUS Film in Zuni but never got to see the completed film. We praise God that this young man heard his grandfather’s voice. We pray Michael will hear the voice of our Heavenly Father also.”

1. Dialogue Questions (Optional)

(These are useful for discussion in small groups. There are no “right” answers; the goal is to get people thinking about the issues.)

- Read Matthew 28:18–20: Why do Christians have a responsibility for helping men, women, and children come to know Christ around the world?
- Read Acts 1:7-9: Discuss the areas that make up your Jerusalem (small circle of influence—friends, family, and church), Judea (small geographic area), Samaria (other cultures), and the ends of the earth (the whole world).
- Read Matthew 18:10-14: What were Jesus’ feelings toward people who did not know Him?
- What are some ways you’ve seen Christians reach out to the lost both locally and globally?
- What action can you and your local congregation take to raise awareness about how to share Christ in your local community and around the world?

2. Practical ways the congregation can get involved.

We are commanded in Matthew 28:19 to “go and make disciples of all nations.” The Church of the Nazarene has lived out this command for more than 100 years, and JESUS Film Harvest Partners has come alongside hundreds of people seeking to reach others in their cultures through the JESUS Film and other tools. You can help reach one more person through praying, discipling, giving, and educating.

- a. Prayer & Praise (Praying)

- Pray for the lost and new believers.
- JESUS Film Harvest Partners shares stories of changed lives and prayer requests weekly through the *Prayer & Praise* e-mail newsletter. Subscribe at <http://www.JFHP.org/email/subscribe.cfm?Email=PrayerandPraise>
    - Forward these e-mails to others who care about the people who do not have a personal relationship with Christ.
    - Share the requests in your weekly prayer meetings.
    - Use one of the stories as an opener in Sunday school.
    - Share a story with children, show the country on a map, and learn more about the culture.
  - Pray as a family for the teams around the world who share the JESUS Film and face death and persecution.
  - Pray for new believers to grow strong in their faith.
  - Be aware of how global events and issues affect team members and new believers. Read articles and news stories about them. Subscribe to *NCN News* at <http://www.ncnnews.com/nphweb/html/ncn/subscribe.jsp> and *Engage Magazine* (<http://www.nazarene.org/subscriber.aspx>) for current stories.
  - Talk to your family, friends, neighbors, and congregation about the lost.
- b. Go and make disciples of all nations (Discipling)
- Coordinate a JESUS Film Ministry Trip to a priority country. On this trip, you will provide JESUS Film equipment to people seeking to reach their own culture with the story of JESUS, watch, and help with a JESUS Film showing. See the harvest firsthand—never be the same! <http://www.JFHP.org/getinvolved/ministrytrips.cfm>
  - Find someone to disciple and ask someone to disciple you.
- c. Invest in souls today (Giving)
- (If you have helpers present the team testimonies, they can help with the following. Starting with the second bullet point, each of the helpers could stand and say the statement that applies to the person's testimony the helper read.)
- For USD\$30 a month invested in the JESUS Film ministry, historical averages indicate 10 people will make a decision for Jesus. An investment of \$3.00 can help someone meet Jesus.
  - Over the course of a year, several new Nazarene preaching points will be established.
  - Prisoners can become worship leaders.
  - God's promises will be revealed.
  - A 12-year-old can choose Christ before being hardened by the things of the world.
  - A demon-possessed woman can be freed from bondage to darkness.
  - Hard-to-reach places and hard-to-reach people will see the light of JESUS.
  - Hardened hearts will soften to the Gospel.
  - The voice of God will be heard. Help in the harvest today. Give a small amount each day.
- d. Do it yourself (Educating)
- Reach out to your community. Use the resources provided at <http://www.JFHP.org/diy/index.cfm> to create an outreach strategy to people in your community. Read success stories of how other churches have touched their neighbors with God's love.
  - Following the "I Am One" CAUSE presentation, use Acts 1:8 as a basis to develop a long-term plan of action to reach others. Focus on a different group each quarter.
    - Jerusalem
      - Select at least one way to share Jesus with your Jerusalem (family and local church).
        - Strategy 1: Show the EvangeCube to your friends and family to talk about the love of God. Find out more at [www.JFHP.org](http://www.JFHP.org) in the Resources section.
        - Strategy 2: Play a game of soccer using the evangelism soccer ball and explain the meaning of the colors. Find out more at [www.JFHP.org](http://www.JFHP.org) in the Resources section.

- Strategy 3: Set a time to talk with a friend or loved one who does not have a personal relationship with Christ and share your testimony.
  - Judea
 

Select at least one way to share Jesus with your Judea (neighborhood, city, and county/province). Visit [www.JFHP.org](http://www.JFHP.org) in the "Do It Yourself" section for more details on each evangelistic strategy listed below.

    - Strategy 1: Vacation Bible School (VBS) and Backyard Bible Clubs
    - Strategy 2: Pre-VBS Strategy
    - Strategy 3: Series of Personal Contacts
    - Strategy 4: Welcome Basket
    - Strategy 5: County Fair Strategy
    - Strategy 6: Barbecue
    - Strategy 7: Inactive Church Members
    - Strategy 8: Home Groups
    - Strategy 9: Teaching a Second Language
    - Strategy 10: Community Food Drive
  - Samaria
 

Select at least one way to share Jesus with your Samaria (other cultures).

    - Strategy 1: Seek out and work with immigrant populations.
    - Strategy 2: Offer language classes or find out what needs are most important.
  - Globally
 

Select at least one way to share Jesus with other nations, even to the ends of the earth.

    - Strategy 1: Participate in a ministry trip with other believers. Go on a JESUS Film Ministry Trip to share God's love with the lost. Go to [www.JFHP.org](http://www.JFHP.org) in the "Get Involved" section for more information.
    - Strategy 2: Financially support the work of others who actively tell people about Jesus.
  - Other Ideas
    - Periodically have an "I Am One" presentation with your own people, updating the presentation as new believers become involved with your church.
    - Create an "I Am One" PowerPoint presentation (if appropriate), following the "I Am One" presentation format. Leave every other slide blank as a goal to fill the slide with a new person who can say "I Am One!"
    - Host an annual Believer's Day. Have an "I Am One" presentation or PowerPoint show and have individuals share their testimonies.

## Conclusion

We seek to reach one more country, one more people group, and one more person. There are an estimated 2.75 billion people who do not know Jesus, 6,642 people groups who have not heard the name of Jesus. These people need a chance to choose. As a follower of Christ, you are commanded to help the lost meet the Savior. With every birth, there is a new soul waiting for an introduction to Christ.

## Prayer Points

Use these in the closing prayer or include on the prayer list.

- Pray for those waiting to meet Jesus.
- Pray for children and adults who are new believers in Christ, but have been rejected by their families who have other religious beliefs.
- Pray that God will protect the JESUS Film Harvest Partners teams who are helping to reach the people of their culture with the love of God.
- Pray for God to give your church family a passion for reaching the lost at home and around the world.

# CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

## LESSON 1: Mexico, Central America, and South America

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children discover how Christians from different cultures work together through Work & Witness to develop relationships, complete projects, and share the Gospel.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Spanish is main language spoken in Mexico, Central America, and South America. Portuguese is spoken in Brazil.
- The food of Mexico is popular all over the world.
- The Pan-American Highway, which travels through Mexico, Central America, and South America, is the longest highway in the world.
- The Amazon River in South America is the world's longest river. It starts in Peru's mountains and flows through all of Brazil. The mouth of the river is 200 miles across.
- The Andes Mountain range in South America is the longest in the world. The Andes are in seven countries: Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina.
- The anaconda, the world largest snake, is only found in South America.

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### Introduction

Create an atmosphere that reflects the cultures of Mexico, Central America, and South America. Include all the senses. Decorate with chili peppers and sombreros. Display maps and travel posters. Play music typical of these regions. Choose a food, such as tortillas or chips and salsa or guacamole, for the children to sample. Provide books for the children to read. Display objects from various countries, such as a serape, maracas, baskets, and small flags.

Work & Witness is a ministry for people from Nazarene churches going around the world to help others. It may involve traveling by plane, riding in a riverboat, journeying by train, or hiking on a dirt road. Work & Witness is building relationships—working hard together, eating together, laughing together, and worshiping together. Work & Witness is building the Kingdom—visiting, testifying, singing, playing instruments, preaching, praying, and showing the *JESUS* Film. Work & Witness is constructing buildings—churches, schools, clinics, houses, and campgrounds. Work & Witness is missions!

Prepare for the lesson by making copies of the Fast Facts. Cut out and glue each one on colored paper, and prepare at least one fact for each child. Place the facts in a basket for the children to select later. If possible, find pictures that illustrate the Fast Facts.

Before telling the mission story, ask the children, *What do you know about the Mexico/Central America and South America regions? We will call them MAC and SAM for this lesson. What do you think of when you hear the names Mexico/Central America and South America?* As everyone participates, write the responses on the board. Show a map and explain that you will be studying these regions this year. Have each child select a Fast Fact from the basket and read it aloud. Show pictures as they read them. Continue until all Fast Facts have been read.

Say, *You will learn many other interesting things about MAC and SAM. Here are some of the other things you will learn about these regions: where the 11 countries are located, the foods people enjoy eating, what children do for fun, the animals that live in these regions, where our missionaries and pastors serve and what they do.*

Write the names of the 11 countries to be studied on colored cards—one name per card. Divide the children into small groups, mixing older and younger children. Turn the cards with the country names upside down on a table. Have groups take turns picking up a card and reading the country's name, then finding and pointing to the country on the map. Say, *The Church of the Nazarene has churches in all of these countries. These are the countries we will learn about this year.* Let each child take home one of the cards. If you have more than 11 children, make duplicate cards.

Hand out Activity Sheet 1, "Travel the Pan-American Highway." Review the countries names and point them out, as the children fill in the blanks.

### MISSION STORY: Carlos and Robin Radi—Missionaries to MAC and SAM by Wes Eby

Say, Today's story is about a husband and wife who are missionaries in Argentina. Though they were born in different countries, God has used them as a team to spread the Gospel in both MAC and SAM.

"Bruno [BREW-noh], come and look at these sores on Carlos." Mrs. Radi [RAH-dee] said. "They're all over his body. We need to take him to the doctor right away."

Rev. Radi looked at his young son. "I agree with you," he said. "Let's go! I'll carry him out to the car."

The doctor told Rev. and Mrs. Radi, "Your son is allergic to the sulfur in our dirt, and he could die. I recommend that you leave the area so Carlos can get better."

The Radis were living in northern Argentina where Rev. Radi was pastor of a Nazarene church. But the Radis took the doctor's advice and moved to another city to pastor. Carlos received the medical care he needed and got well.

Carlos was born in Argentina and grew up with three sisters. He was four years old when he was saved. "Because I was so young," Carlos says, "God also saved me from a life of sinful behavior. I'm thankful God kept me from doing bad things."

When Carlos was a young man, he saw a Work & Witness team. "I saw these people giving their time and money to help our church halfway around the world. I was deeply touched," he says. "I told the Lord that I would spend my life helping to build His kingdom." This was Carlos's call to the ministry.

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"Robin, how would you like a sister?" her mother asked.

"A sister?" asked Robin. "That would be fun! I'd have someone to play with."

"Your father and I are going to adopt a baby girl from here in Peru. Her name is Sheri."

Robin's parents, Rev. Robert and Norma Brunson, were missionaries in Peru and Costa Rica for many years. Robin was born while they were in Peru. When Robin was five years old, Sheri joined the Brunson family.

Robin says that growing up in Peru was interesting. "My favorite food was *ceviche* (say-VEE-chay) which is raw fish covered with lemon juice. I also liked *chicha morada* (CHEE-chuh moh-RAH-duh), which is a gelatin made from red or purple corn. I still like these foods today."

Robin also accepted Christ at the age of four. Robin says, "I really liked going to church and enjoyed spiritual things."

One year, the Brunsons were in the United States on home assignment. Robin's parents spoke in churches to help people learn about their mission work. "One evening my father was preaching in a service," Robin says, "and I was the first one to go to the altar. At the age of six, I felt God calling me to be a missionary. As a teenager, I better understood God's call to serve Him. I always want to help Him grow His kingdom."

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Carlos grew up in Argentina. Robin was a missionary kid who grew up in Peru and Costa Rica. Carlos and Robin met in San Antonio, Texas, at a worldwide Nazarene conference. After the

conference, Carlos returned to Argentina and Robin attended college in Oklahoma. They e-mailed each other; and during this time, they fell in love. They married a year later in Kansas. The newlyweds believed that God was calling them to serve Him together in missions. Carlos and Robin have been missionaries for 10 years now, and they have three girls. Their names are Nicol [ni-KOHL], Natali [nuh-TAH-lee], and Natasha [nuh-TAH-shuh].

At first, the Radis served in the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean Region for two years. They helped Work & Witness teams to rebuild 60 Nazarene churches, homes, and a campground that had been destroyed by a hurricane.

The Radis then served in Guatemala for four years. They worked with churches and young people in promoting missions around the world. Now they live in Argentina, where they are involved in many tasks. Among other things, Carlos helps Work & Witness teams that come to Argentina. The Radis are truly missionaries to MAC and SAM.

## STORY DISCUSSION

Say, Let's play a game of "soccer" to review the story about Carlos and Robin Radi. Divide the group into two soccer teams: Mexico and Brazil. In addition to the sample questions, write your own and include the Fast Facts. Each correct answer equals one goal. Ask a child to keep score on the board.

Sample questions:

1. Where was Carlos Radi born? (Argentina)
2. Why did Carlos have to go to the hospital when he was a child? (He was allergic to sulfur in the dirt.)
3. How did Carlos get well? (His parents moved to another city.)
4. What job did Carlos's father have? (He was a Nazarene pastor.)
5. How did Carlos become interested in missions? (He saw a Work & Witness team.)
6. Where was Robin Radi born? (Peru)
7. What job did her parents have? (They were missionaries.)
8. What did Robin's parents do that made Robin happy? (They adopted a girl who became Robin's sister.)

### *Work and Witness: What Is It?*

Write a different Work & Witness activity on each of several index cards. (Activities can include: build a church, build a clinic, build a school, build a house, tear down a building, clean a vacant lot, teach a Sunday school class, preach in a church service, show the JESUS Film, distribute Christian literature, sing a solo in a church service, lead a Vacation Bible School or home Bible study, invite people to church, work in an orphanage, teach someone to speak another language, lead a children's choir, etc.) Hide the cards around the room.

Ask, What does Work & Witness mean? Let the children tell what they know. Then say, In the story about Carlos and Robin Radi, what did you learn about Work & Witness? (Carlos saw a Work & Witness team when he was a young man, and it resulted in his call to missions. The Radis were involved with Work & Witness as missionaries in the Caribbean and now in South America.)

Tell the children you have hidden cards with Work & Witness activities written on them. Ask each child to find a card, then have them read their cards aloud. Discuss the activities, and help children understand that there are many kinds of activities that can be done on a Work & Witness trip.

Say, People who go on Work & Witness trips are like missionaries for a short time. They go to help other people know the love of Jesus.

Soon after presenting this lesson, plan a simple Work & Witness-type activity for the children: gather and donate items for people in need, rake leaves or clean for an elderly or sick person, help serve a meal at a rescue mission.

## *PRAYER TIME*

Hold up a kite and say, Children in MAC and SAM enjoy flying kites. In Guatemala, the first day of November is a day for kite festivals. In Brazil, people of all ages enjoy flying kites.

Say, Today we're going to make prayer kites to use throughout the year. As we study each country, you will attach prayer requests to remind you to pray for the people of MAC and SAM. How can we pray for them today? As children offer prayer requests, write the requests on the board.

Help the children prepare their kites. Allow them to cut the 12" by 18" pieces of construction paper into large fun kite shapes. Then have the children tape a piece of string to the bottom of their kites for the tail. From the scraps of paper, have them cut out bow-tie shapes, write prayer requests on them from the board, and attach the papers to the string tail.

Lead the children in prayer. Encourage them to give sentence prayers about the requests they wrote.

## LESSON 2: Mexico

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### *PURPOSE*

To teach children that God plans for His people to work together in ministry to others.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- The border between the United States and Mexico is 1,900 miles long.
- Artifacts from the ancient Mayan and Aztec civilizations can be seen in Mexico today.
- Mariachi [mahr-ee-AH-chee] music originated in Mexico. Most bands include a singer, violins, trumpets, and guitars.
- After soccer, bullfighting is the second most popular sport in Mexico.
- Mexico City is the capital of Mexico and one of the world's largest cities.
- The traditional piñata was star-shaped and represented the star of Bethlehem.

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### Introduction

The Church of the Nazarene's Border Initiative helps the church in northern Mexico and the southwest United States to plant and develop churches and leadership in unreached cities on both sides of the border. This is done by combining ministry teams from the United States with churches and teams in northern Mexico.

Before class, write each of the Fast Facts on an index card, tape each card to a crepe paper streamer, and tape each streamer to the piñata.

Ask a student to locate Mexico on the world map. Say, Mexico shares its southern border with Central America. It shares its northern border with the United States. Central Mexico is mountainous, with deserts to the north and jungles to the south. There are many volcanoes in Mexico, but only a few are active. Most Mexicans have both Spanish and Native American ancestors who belonged to ancient groups, such as the Mayas and Aztecs. Mexico is a popular place for tourists, who come for the beautiful beaches, friendly people, and ancient Mayan ruins.

Show the piñata and say, The piñata is a popular and recognizable symbol of Mexican celebrations, which are colorful and festive. Let's use the piñata to learn more about Mexico. Ask volunteers to carefully remove the crepe paper streamers and read the Fast Facts.

Before the story, use a puzzle activity to help children understand how groups of people can work together to successfully complete a project. Provide a puzzle that is simple enough for children to complete within a few minutes. With the children divided into two teams, give half of the puzzle to one team and half to the other team. Place the teams at opposite ends of a table and tell them when to begin. After the teams have worked on their puzzle halves and realize they do not have all the pieces, ask them to tell ways they could finish the puzzle by working together. When they finish the puzzle together, lead them in saying Philippians 1:4-5.

Say, When we work alone in ministry, sometimes, we're less effective than when we work together toward the same goal. Tell me some ways that Christians work together to share the Gospel. (Possible answers: churches put together Crisis Care Kits for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries to distribute. VBS mission offerings may be used to purchase evangelism tools, which are then used by JESUS Film teams. Work & Witness teams help complete mission projects; and churches collect Alabaster offerings to help others construct churches, schools, and other buildings around the world. Missionaries work with church leaders in other countries to start churches and provide pastoral training.)

## MISSION STORY: A Different Summer Vacation

by Gina Grate Pottenger

The focus of the Border Initiative is to partner believers in the work of the Church. This ministry impacts the lives of people who live on both sides of the United States and Mexico border.

"It's time to go work at the church," Pastor Martin [mahr-TEEN] said.

"But, Dad, it's Monday morning!" 11-year-old Lluvia [YOO-vee-uh] protested.

"And it's our summer vacation!" added Mizael [MEE-zah-el], her 12-year-old brother.

Dad smiled. "We have help today. You'll be surprised at how much more we'll get done with a little teamwork."

Mizael and Lluvia glanced at each other across the table.

"Who's helping?" Lluvia asked.

"Some teenagers from Ohio," Dad answered. "They're coming to help us as part of the Border Initiative ministry. Nazarene mission teams and churches from both sides of the United States and Mexican border work together on ministry projects. The teens were supposed to go to Juarez, Mexico. But since the materials didn't arrive for their project, they're coming to help us in El Paso, Texas."

When Pastor Martin and his children arrived at the church, they greeted the adults and teenagers.

"Thank you for coming!" Pastor Martin told the group. "Many teenagers wouldn't give up a week of their summer to work on a church hundreds of miles away."

"I wouldn't," Mizael muttered to Lluvia, who elbowed him in the ribs. He glared at her as he rubbed his side.

After prayer, the ministry team split into small groups and began working. Some held brushes and paint cans; others held trash bags, and a few carried giant scissors for cutting brushes.

"Dad said we're supposed to help them, but we don't even know them," Mizael complained.

Lluvia saw three girls who were picking up trash. She looked at Mizael and shrugged, then walked over and joined them.

"My name is Lluvia. Can I help?"

"Sure!" said one girl, who handed her a pair of gloves. "We'll get done faster with another person helping. I'm Amanda."

"I'm Jill, and this is Jennifer," the second girl said.

As the girls worked together they traded stories about their brothers and sisters, laughing at how alike their families were.

"Are we done already?" Lluvia asked, as she looked around. "I thought it would take all day!"

"I guess we need something else to do," Jennifer said. "Come with us, Lluvia."

The girls walked to the front of the church where some teens were creating a sunrise mural on the outside wall. Just then, Mizael walked by with some of the boys.

"What are you guys doing?" Lluvia asked.

"We're painting the sanctuary. You should see it." Mizael said.

Lluvia and her new friends hurried inside.

"Oh," Lluvia gasped. "It looks so much better!"

"I love to paint! Let's help," Jill said.

"You guys are strange!" Lluvia teased. "You're spending part of your summer vacation to work at our church."

"It's fun," Jennifer said, dipping a brush into paint. "Christians are supposed to help each other."

Lluvia and Mizael's new friends came every morning to work at the church. By the end of the week, a brilliant orange, yellow, and red sunrise had been painted on the front of the church. Shrubs had been pruned. And the sanctuary that used to be dark and uninviting was now bright and cheerful.

As the teens said good-bye, Lluvia and the three girls exchanged e-mail addresses.

"Yeah, this was fun!" said Mizael, as he joined the girls. "Thank you for your help. We couldn't have done all this without you."

The girls gave their new friends hugs and then climbed into the van. The ministry team waved good-bye.

## STORY DISCUSSION

Spend a few minutes discussing the following questions with the children:

- What kinds of jobs did the teens from Ohio do at Luvia and Mizael's church?
- How did this help Pastor Martin's family?
- Why does God want Christians to help each other?
- What is the Border Initiative?
- How can we partner with others in ministry?

Distribute Activity Sheet 2 and tell students to circle the pictures that show children working together as a team (food pantry, bake sale, senior center). Ask students to tell why they selected the pictures they circled. Let this discussion lead to a brainstorming session on ways the class could participate in a team ministry project in their church or community. List students' ideas on the board. Discuss the ideas with your ministry staff and the parents. Make necessary contacts, schedule the event, and help students prepare to serve.

## *PRAYER TIME*

Say, Today's story told of a mission team who helped a pastor and his family clean and paint their church. By working together as a team, they were able to accomplish a lot in a short time. This allowed the pastor to spend more time ministering to his congregation and sharing the Gospel in the community.

Missionaries in Mexico and other ministry leaders who help with Border Initiative projects need our prayer support. Let's pray for them, as well as for the people they serve.

Lead the children in prayer, asking volunteers to pray aloud. Then let the children glue their prayer requests on their prayer kites.

## LESSON 3: Guatemala

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children understand how God works through Christians to meet the needs of widows and orphans.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Guatemala is located in Central America between the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean.
- Guatemala is called the “Land of the Eternal Spring.”
- Guatemala’s national flower is the rare white nun orchid.
- The colorful quetzal is the national bird of Guatemala.
- Although Guatemala is a small country, it has 38 volcanoes.
- Guatemala City is the capital of Guatemala.

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### Introduction

God clearly tells us in His Word to be careful to take care of the orphans and widows of this world. His love and concern for them encourages us to do more than just pray and offer words of help. We must give support for their daily needs wherever and whenever we can. A children’s refugee center that was begun by the Church of the Nazarene in a remote village in San Miguel Chicaj, Guatemala, is named, “Hogar del Niño.” This ministry helps orphans and widows with the basic necessities of life and provides opportunities for schooling, vocational training, and religious instruction.

To prepare the room for this lesson, decorate with a garden theme, since Guatemala is called the “Land of Eternal Spring.” Hang a sign that reads, “Welcome to our Guatemala Garden.” Bring in live or artificial plants, small bushes, and trees. Use other things found in a garden, such as a bench, patio umbrella, even a water fountain. Make paper flowers, attach the six Fast Facts to them, and post them on a bulletin board.

Introduce the lesson by pointing to Guatemala on a map. Say, Guatemala is located in Central America. It is a beautiful country with more than 13 million people. The year-round temperature is a mild 70 degrees Fahrenheit (21 degrees Celsius), making it a garden-like country. If you were to go there, you could visit the ancient Mayan ruins that are thousands of years old, go river rafting, climb volcanoes, swim in the Caribbean Sea, go boating on Atitlan [a-TEET-lun], one of the most beautiful lakes in the world, and shop in the open-air markets for souvenirs and handcrafts. You could visit tropical jungles to see colorful birds, spider monkeys, iguanas, and jaguars.

Distribute the flowers with the Fast Facts from the bulletin board, and ask children to read them aloud.

#### MISSION STORY: José’s Dream

by Bev Borbe

Say, This story of José and Roberto is based on the true account of two children in Guatemala who were orphaned at the ages of five and seven. Fortunately, Child Sponsorship came to their rescue.

The minute José turned the corner and saw his house; he knew something was terribly wrong. There were a dozen people on the porch talking in hushed voices. His younger brother Roberto was

crying. He wondered if his father, who had left his mother some time ago, had returned. But if that were true, Roberto would not be crying. Something awful must have happened.

José felt a gentle hand on his shoulder. He turned to see Rev. Torres, pastor of the little church near his home. "José," the pastor began, "there's been an accident. As your mother was climbing the apple tree to pick some fruit, she fell and hit her head. The injury was so bad that she did not live. I'm very sorry."

José pulled away from the pastor's arm and began to run as fast as he could to his secret place in the nearby forest.

Several weeks later, José and Roberto began living at their grandparents' house, miles away from their old home. Although the two brothers were still very sad, they knew they were with two people who loved them.

Life was not easy though. José and Roberto slept on the floor with only a few ragged blankets to keep out the chill of the night. They often went to bed hungry. Their clothes were worn, and they had no shoes.

José helped around the house by carrying firewood for the wood stove, bringing water to the house, and helping his grandmother cook.

José had never been to school. He heard other children talking about it, and he dreamed of going too. But he knew that probably would not happen. His grandparents did not have money for school.

One day when José came back from fishing, he saw a car in front of the house. He slipped inside and listened to the voices coming from the kitchen. He peeked around the corner, and there was his friend, Pastor Torres.

"Pastor, Pastor!" José cried, rushing toward him.

Pastor Torres threw his arms around José and gave him a big hug. "José, I've come to tell you and your grandparents some exciting news. A few days ago, a group of pastors and local leaders came to tell me about a children's refugee center named Hogar del Niño. The center was built by the Church of the Nazarene in the 1980s. It provided care and education for children who became orphans due to guerilla fighting."

Pastor Torres smiled and continued, "Later, their ministry expanded to include widows and orphaned children living in nearby villages. They also began a program called Child Sponsorship. Now orphaned children can even live with their own family members and receive the help they need from the center.

"José, the people who told me about the center showed me a list of children who had been chosen to be in the Child Sponsorship program. And your name is on the list! So is Roberto's!"

José's eyes got very big. "What does that mean, Pastor?"

"It means your grandparents will receive food, clothing, shoes, and a bed for you and your brother."

José grinned as he thought about having enough food to eat, shoes and good clothes to wear, and even his own bed!

José saw smiles and tears on his grandparents' faces. They looked as if a great burden had been lifted from their shoulders.

José did not understand everything, but all of a sudden, he jumped up and exclaimed, "'Pastor! Does this mean I might get to go to school someday?"

"Yes, José. And your tuition, books, uniform, and school supplies will be provided." Pastor Torres added, "In school, you will learn skills to help you start a business. Or maybe you'll receive training in carpentry, home building, farming, sewing, or bread making. This would help you earn a living someday. Also, you will receive encouragement from your new Nazarene friends here who will lead you in Bible studies to help you grow spiritually."

Now big tears fell from José's eyes, and he did not even bother to wipe them away. José's dream was coming true, and that was all that mattered!

## STORY DISCUSSION

To review the story about José, discuss with children the following statements (submitted by Kathryn Christensen). Then read James 1:27.

1. How do you think José felt when he saw all the people at his house?
2. Have you ever had anything sad or scary happen to you? If so, how did you feel?
3. How do you think José and Roberto felt about going to live with their grandparents?

4. What do you think it would be like to not have a bed to sleep in or enough food to eat? Have you ever been really hungry? How did you feel?
5. What do you think it would be like to not go to school? Can you tell the group what it would be like to not know how to read or write?
6. How do you think José felt when he heard Pastor Torres's news later in the story?
7. How does Jesus feel about children like José and Roberto?
8. Can you think of anything you can do to help children like José and Roberto?

Say, In today's story, you learned that José and Roberto became orphans due to circumstances beyond their control. How would you feel if this happened to you? When we feel other people's sadness and suffering, we want to help them.

Draw two columns on the board; title one column "Things to Do for Widows" and the other "Things to Do for Orphans." Tell the children about widows and orphans living in your area or attending your church. Have children brainstorm ways to help them. From the lists, choose a class project.

Before the lesson, prepare an EvangeGlove to wear during your presentation. Use the directions in Activity Sheet 3 to guide you. You will need copies of Activity Sheet 3 for each child, crayons or markers, scissors, double-sided tape, and small disposable vinyl or cloth garden gloves (1 per child).

Say, The Child Sponsorship program brings hope to orphans and their mothers. They not only receive food and clothing, the children can go to school and have health care. The children also receive spiritual training. A tool called the EvangeGlove has been used by some mission teams to help children find Christ. Today you can make your own evangelism glove and learn how to use it with family friends.

Show children the sample you have prepared. Demonstrate how it works by closing your hand so they cannot see the symbols. As you tell about each symbol, lift the finger that shows it. When your hand is wide open, revealing the Bible, share the information about that symbol.

Distribute and discuss Activity Sheet 3, including the script for the symbols. Have children color and cut out the symbols on the bottom of the activity sheet as directed, then put a piece of tape on the back of each symbol. Distribute the gloves for children to wear while they attach the symbols as shown on the sample glove.

Let the children use their scripts and practice with partners. Encourage them to memorize the scripts.

Editor's Note: The EvangeGlove was created by Odily Diaz, a Sunday school teacher in El Salvador.

### ***PRAYER TIME***

1. Before class, write the following scripture verse on 4" squares of paper:  
"Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything" (Philippians 4:6)
2. Below the verse, write the following:  
Pray for—
  - God's protection of orphans and widows
  - God's guidance of ministry leaders
  - Funds for orphans' education and job training
3. Have children turn in their Bible to Philippians 4:6 and read it together. Ask the children to tape their papers to their prayer kites to remind them to pray for the widows and orphans.

## LESSON 4: Honduras

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children develop a sense of compassion for people in need, and to provide opportunities for them to help make a difference in the lives of others.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Honduras was known as the Banana Republic for the quantity and quality of bananas it exported.
- The Maya Indians lived in Honduras and built magnificent cities with pyramids and temples.
- Fried bananas are popular in Honduras and are served with most meals.
- *Futbol*, or soccer, is the national sport. Boys of all ages play, even in their bare feet.
- The macaw is the national bird. It is a symbol of the sun, and the seven colors of its feathers represent the rainbow.
- Honduras was named by Christopher Columbus for the deep waters off its coast and means “depths.”

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### Introduction

To set up the room for the lesson, fill a corner of the classroom with clean, reusable trash items, such as boxes, sacks, plastic containers, tin foil, twist ties, straws, and worn-out clothing. Include a variety of large and small items. In other parts of the room, create a tropical environment with plants. On a bulletin board, use large strips of paper to create a pyramid-shaped stairway. Display baskets and pottery with sample produce from Honduras, such as bananas, coconuts, potatoes, mangoes, papayas, avocados, beans, rice, sugar, tortillas, and coffee beans. Cut up pieces of fruit for children to sample later. Also, make sure you have a soccer ball to display.

Many families in Honduras are poor. Parents cannot pay for shoes, uniforms, or school supplies for their children. Many children are hungry and sick, because they have little food and minimal health care. Some Nazarene congregations meet in houses or yards because they cannot afford buildings. Work & Witness teams go to help build churches and schools, work in medical clinics, and conduct Vacation Bible School.

Point to the pile of trash in the room. Say, Imagine being so poor that your family has nowhere else to live but next to the city dump. Your house is put together from scraps of rotten wood, cardboard, plastic bottles, and rusted metal. You have a dirty floor, and your bathroom is the jungle of plants around you. Your parents don't know how to read or write, nor do they have the skills needed to get jobs. You must help your family survive on what you find in the dump. Every day your parents collect things to recycle or sell. You look for food scraps to eat and torn, dirty clothes to wear. You try to find things to play with or use in your house. It's the way you've lived since you were born.

Hold up a few items from the trash pile and ask children to tell how they could use them (toy, clothing, dishes, furniture). Then divide the class into small groups. Let each group select a designated number of items from the trash pile and use tape to create a household item or toy. After about 10 minutes, bring children together and let each group describe how their item might be used.

Say, You've had fun being creative and making useful things from trash. But depending on trash for your survival would not be fun. Living from a dump is dangerous and unsanitary. Today's story tells about some families who lived this way—until a Nazarene couple saw their needs and took action. God wants us to be healthy and well-educated so that we can earn a living to pay for housing, food, and clothes we need.

## MISSION STORY: Hope in Honduras

by Anne Rudeen, as told by Brian Ruark

Hector and Rosemary brought hope to the families in Cocal Gracias, Honduras. They shared God's love with compassion, and they helped to change many lives.

The city dump in Cocal Gracias, Honduras, was started years ago when a garbage company began dumping its trash without the permission of the town leaders. Families who were poor began to look through the garbage, searching for things to recycle, food to eat, and items to sell, such as metals and cloth. They came to depend on the trash for their survival. Tin, plywood, and cardboard were used to make their houses. At one point, 70 families lived alongside the dump in homes made from trash with floors of mud.

Most people who came to Cocal Gracias could not read or write. Their children were born into a life of poverty and grew up depending on the trash for food and shelter. The children knew nothing about hygiene. They were dirty and often sick. Many of them died. Cocal Gracias was a dangerous place to live.

Feliciano and Betty, who had lived a long time in Cocal Gracias, were among the few people in town who had learned to read. They owned the only store in the neighborhood. But with 12 grandchildren to raise, they struggled to survive, too.

One day, a Nazarene couple brought hope to these families. Hector and Rosemary were members of a Nazarene church in nearby Puerto Cortes. They packed some cereal and milk and headed to the city dump to feed the children. What they saw broke their hearts. Dirty, starving children were walking through piles of trash. Many had infected wounds and skin diseases. Hector and Rosemary felt such compassion for the children that they returned weekly with cereal and milk.

Hector and Rosemary soon realized that feeding the children was not enough, so they started ministering in other ways. They taught the children and their parents basic life skills—how to wash their hands and clothes, how to brush their teeth, and how to read.

The couple started a Sunday School class and taught the children and their parents about God. Hundreds of children attended the class, including the grandchildren of Betty and Feliciano. Eventually, Betty began attending Sunday School with her grandchildren, and she met God. Then her husband started attending, and he, too, met God. They soon felt a call to serve their neighbors.

Feliciano and Betty spent four years in the ministry that Hector and Rosemary started. Feliciano and Betty gained the trust and respect of their neighbors. Feliciano eventually became the City Hall representative for Cocal Gracias. He worked with the local government to provide new homes for the families living off the Cocal Gracias dump.

For the first time in their lives, the families now live in real houses made of cement blocks. Their new neighborhood is called "La Esperanza," which means "The Hope." The people still need the education and skills that will help them get jobs so they can support their families. However, each family now has the opportunity to start a new life with new hope.

Betty and Feliciano also moved to La Esperanza. They continued to feed the children, and they held Sunday School in their house until the local Nazarene church was built.

Today there is a Nazarene church, a medical clinic, a public elementary school, and a trade school in the middle of the neighborhood. Many Work & Witness teams from the United States worked alongside local workers to make this happen.

Betty believes in the ministry of Sunday School. She and her husband thank God every day for sending people who cared enough about them to share God's love and tell them how He could change their lives.

Hope for Honduras came when others helped them with their basic needs, then helped them achieve the skills and knowledge they needed to help themselves. A new generation of Hondurans is now finding ways to make a better life.

Visit [www.cocalgracias.org](http://www.cocalgracias.org) for excellent photos and footage of the current work in Cocal Gracias.

### STORY DISCUSSION

Visit [www.cocalgracias.org](http://www.cocalgracias.org) for excellent photos and footage of the current work in Cocal Gracias. On a board, write all the things that Hector and Rosemary, and Betty and Feliciano and the Church of

the Nazarene have done for the people in Cocal Gracias: provided cereal and milk for the kids; taught them how to wash their hands and clothes, brush their teeth, and read; worked with government leaders to build cement block houses in a new neighborhood now called La Esperanza; built an elementary school, a trade school, a Nazarene church, and a medical clinic; taught families about God's love and how He could change their lives.

Brainstorm with your students ways they could help others in their community and globally. Discuss individual and group project ideas, and list them on the board. Distribute Activity Sheet 4, and tell children to cut the large square apart from the directions. Have the children fold their squares as you demonstrate each step. Then discuss the directions for using their puzzles to play the game, "Open Doors to Service." Divide the class into small groups of 2 to 4 players, and choose the leaders.

After the groups have had time to discuss the questions, bring them together to share their answers. Remind children that serving others is one way of serving Jesus. Tell them they are never too young to make a difference in their community or the world. If possible, choose a project idea for the class and begin planning the details with your students and parents.

### *PRAYER TIME*

Gather the children for prayer and share sliced bananas with them. Suggest that they pray for the children in Honduras every time they eat a tropical fruit. Remind the children to be thankful for the education they receive and for the opportunities it provides. Ask volunteers to pray that...

- Children can attend school regularly and receive a good education
- Families will find ways to stop the cycle of poverty
- Parents in La Esperanza will learn new skills needed for jobs
- Nazarene churches will continue to make a difference in their neighborhoods

## LESSON 5: Costa Rica

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children recognize that today's missionaries are called and sent from around the world.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Costa Ricans eat rice and beans nearly every day.
- Because Costa Rica receives so much rain, the people have different words to describe it. "Cat's fur" means a soft, gentle rain.
- There are more species of plants and animals per square mile in Costa Rica than in any other country.
- Iguana Park in Costa Rica has been established to research and protect iguanas and the forests in which they live.
- Costa Rica is part of the "Ring of Fire," a group of volcanoes located mostly along the rim of the Pacific Ocean.
- In the rural parts of Costa Rica, many people still travel in carts drawn by horses.

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### *Introduction*

To set the room atmosphere, create a travel center to depict the thriving tourist industry in Costa Rica. Hang travel posters of Costa Rica featuring places of interest to visit, such as rain forests and mountains in which to hike, beaches on which to relax, tropical reefs to snorkel through, or waves to surf. Display travel brochures advertising Costa Rica. Place tropical-looking plants and/or flowers in the travel center. Provide a basket of tropical fruit and prepare some for the children to sample.

For 100 years, the Church of the Nazarene has been sending missionaries from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom to more than 150 world areas. Today, young people from those world areas who have received the Gospel are now answering the call from God to become missionaries themselves. Costa Rica is a great example of how missionaries of different nationalities and cultures work together to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and win the lost.

Locate the Central American country of Costa Rica on the regional map. Then discuss the pictures in the travel center that this country's terrain. Say, People love to visit Costa Rica because it is such a beautiful place. They use many different kinds of transportation to get around. In the cities, people depend on buses, taxis, and cars. But in the rural parts of the country, people ride on horseback, and many still use carts drawn by horses.

Say, This story takes place at the Seminary of the Americas in San José, Costa Rica. An iguana and a missionary kid with a big imagination introduce us to the diversity of nationality and culture among missionaries on its campus.

#### **MISSION STORY: Iggy Finds a New Home**

by Carol Anne Eby

"Whew! That was close!" Kayley Webb hopped off her bike and ran toward Iggy just as he slithered into a hole. "OK, Iggy, that does it! You've got to find a new home."

Kayley had heard the screams as she was riding around the campus where she lived. Then she saw two ladies from the Work & Witness team running toward the work site yelling, "Help! There's a strange-looking creature over there!"

Kayley knew her dad would tell them not to worry. He'd explain that Iggy Iguana was an unofficial pet of the campus and wouldn't hurt anyone.

"Iggy, come out of there right now!" Kayley demanded. Slowly, Iggy backed out of the hole.

"Iggy, let's tour the campus, and you can choose where you want to live. The people here are from different countries, eat different foods, and have different customs. You can see what you like best."

Kayley selected Ruthie Cordova's house first, because she knew Ruthie was teaching class.

"Here we are. Ruthie is from Peru," Kayley explained, as they slipped in the back door. "She came to school here when she was young, and God called her to be a missionary. She went to the United States to further her education. While there, she worked at a Spanish church and in Spanish publications at Nazarene Headquarters (now known as the Global Ministries Center). She also served as a children's pastor."

Kayley continued, "Ruthie says her favorite food is cebiche [se-BEE-chuh]. I think there's some right here on the counter." Iggy looked up. What he saw was a bowl of raw fish covered with a marinade of lime, onion, and hot chili.

Iggy cocked his head. "I don't know, Kayley. Her house is very nice, but I'm a little worried about the fish! What if she decides to try to eat iguana?"

"Oh, Iggy. Don't worry. Ruthie loves all creatures. Come on, let's visit another house."

"This is where the Fernandez family lives," said Kayley. "They came from Argentina, in South America, where they served for 14 years. They've been in Costa Rica for 13 years. Dr. Fernandez is the president of our seminary, and his wife is a professor."

"Dr. Fernandez told me that when he was a kid, all missionaries came from either the United States or Great Britain. Today, the Nazarene Church has missionaries from over 34 different nationalities. Why, right here on our campus, we have missionaries from Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, as well as Peru, Argentina, and the United States. You'll notice that people from Argentina and the United States speak very loudly, and those in Costa Rica and in most of Central America are very quiet."

Iggy raised his head. "I like quiet. Maybe we should move on."

"OK, let's go to my house."

"Why did you come to Costa Rica, Kayley?"

"My parents answered a call from God to do missionary work, and that meant the whole family came along. I really like Costa Rica. My dad is the coordinator of evangelism for Costa Rica, Panama, and Nicaragua. My mom is the Child Sponsorship coordinator. And we're all working hard to learn Spanish. Did you know that Costa Ricans eat beans and rice nearly every meal? My brother and I like to eat it for breakfast."

A bark made Iggy jump. "What's that noise?"

"Oh, that is Tawny, my new dog," Kayley answered.

Iggy jumped up on the table. "Oh, Kayley, I don't think being here is such a good idea. Tawny might want me for lunch. We'd better go."

Iggy dashed to the door as fast as he could go with Kayley close behind. "But Iggy, you've got to find a new home."

Suddenly, Iggy stopped. "Kayley, look at that new building where the Work & Witness team is working. Do you see that big water pipe? That would be a fine home. And I promise not to scare the ladies! Thanks for the tour and for telling me about missionaries from around the world who work here at the seminary."

## STORY DISCUSSION

Say, Because Costa Rica has so much rain, the people have different words to describe it. For example, "cat's fur" means a soft, gentle rain. The abundant rainfall provides rich soil in which some of the densest forests in the world grow. These forests are home to a wide variety of creatures. In fact, there are more species of plants and animals in Costa Rica than in any other country.

One such creature is the green iguana. This lizard is endangered in some countries in Central America and extinct in others. Costa Ricans have established Iguana Park to research and protect the iguanas and the forests in which they live.

Distribute Activity Sheet 5 and discuss the directions. You will need crayons or markers, scissors, and glue. Ask volunteers to identify the animals, and then have children complete their activity sheets. Remind children of the following: God loves all creatures, great and small. Missionaries share this truth to those they serve and teach people that God loves them and will care for them just as He cares for all the creatures He created.

*Creature key for Activity Sheet:* 1. toucan; 2. iguana; 3. spider monkey; 4. tree frog; 5. boa; 6. sea turtle

### ***PRAYER TIME***

Before class, prepare slips of paper with the names of missionaries in Costa Rica. For names of missionaries, go to [www.nazarene.org](http://www.nazarene.org), click on the "missions" tab, then on "Missionary Profiles" (on the right of the page), "Mexico/Central America," and "View printable list of missionaries."

Say, We have learned that Costa Rica is a beautiful place and has an interesting culture. We've also learned that missionaries have come from all over the world to tell the people there about Jesus.

Read 1 Chronicles 16:24. Say, Let's pray for missionaries who tell people everywhere about God's power and love. Let's pray for the Costa Rican people and that God will continue to build His kingdom in that country.

Tell children the names of missionaries who are serving in Costa Rica. Let volunteers pray a sentence prayer for them, then you close the prayer time.

Distribute the prayer kites and have children attach the prayer slips.

## LESSON 6: Colombia

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children realize there are many ways for people to be disciplined and then to disciple others.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Colombia is the second largest coffee producer in the world.
- Many Colombians enjoy eating a dish made with roasted ants. Some say they taste like buttered popcorn; others compare the taste to bacon.
- Most of the world's emeralds are mined in Colombia.
- Colombians enjoy sports, especially soccer and bullfighting.
- Colombia is named after the European explorer Christopher Columbus.
- One of the largest Nazarene churches in the world is found in Colombia.

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### Introduction

Colombia is one of the largest producers of emerald gemstones, flowers, and coffee beans. Label a corner of the room with a sign that reads “coffee shop.” Decorate it with the color green. Display a vase of flowers, a bag of coffee beans or coffee cups filled with coffee beans, and a coffee maker or an espresso machine. Have decaf coffee brewing as children enter the room. Serve decaf mocha lattes made with ½ whole milk, ½ decaf coffee, and lots of chocolate syrup. Or serve small cups of decaf coffee with sweetened condensed milk—a special beverage Colombians make, only with dark, strong coffee.

La Casa de Oración [oh-RAH-see-ohn]—Spanish for “house of prayer”—Church of the Nazarene in Cali, Colombia, started in 1985. There were only five believers, including the husband and wife pastoral team of Rev. Adalberto and Nineye Herrera. Today the church runs about 8,000 every weekend in multiple services. Their strategy is simple: Make disciples through prayer. Discipleship is not just for adults. Children are also involved in disciple-making. They are nurtured in their faith and, in turn, help their family and friends become disciples too. This congregation is using house churches to make disciples in the neighborhoods of their city. Their ministry is bathed in constant prayer by Spirit-filled Christians in the Church of the Nazarene.

Write each Fast Fact on a small piece of paper and place them in a coffee mug. Copy Activity Sheet 6—enough for each child to receive one.

Distribute Activity Sheet 6 and say, **You have one minute to find and trace the outline of each church hidden in the geometric shapes on this page.** After one minute, let the children tell how many churches they found.

Say, **A church is a place where God's people gather to worship God, sing, hear sermons, pray, and read and study the Bible.** Look at your activity sheet again. Can you see any other buildings where people could do these things? Help children discover the school, a hut, and a house. Point out that any of these places can be a meeting place for a church and that people around the world do meet in such places for church.

Say, **More important than the buildings are the people who meet there. They are the Body of Christ, and they are the ones who do the ministries of the church: preaching, teaching, visiting the sick, and helping those in need.**

One of the most important tasks of a church is to provide an atmosphere where people can meet God in prayer. Jesus said, “My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations” (Mark 11:17a). A “house of prayer” is another way to describe a church.

Locate Colombia on a map. Let volunteers each select a Fast Fact from the coffee mug and read it aloud.

Say, today's story tells how God worked through a Colombian woman living in Miami to bring a convicted criminal to faith in Christ.

### MISSION STORY: The Disciple-maker and the Empty Chair

by Liliana Vargas, as told by Matt Price

Liliana was scared when she first began ministering to the prisoner named Felix. "I had never met this man before, yet my heart told me to talk to him about God," Liliana recalled.

At first, Felix was angry. He said, "If you are here to tell me about God, then leave now."

But Liliana did tell him about God. Every eight days, she visited him in prison. Their friendship grew, and soon Liliana realized she was falling in love with him. It frightened her. For six months, Liliana refused to visit Felix. She began to fast and to ask God what to do.

One day, Liliana opened her Bible to Acts 9:13-15. God seemed to say through these verses, "Go. You are a chosen instrument of mine." This helped Liliana realize that she was to share His plan of salvation with Felix. So she returned to the prison.

Not long after, Liliana and Felix were married by the prison chaplain. Every time Liliana visited Felix she would say, "Jesus loves you." And Felix would reply, "I don't believe in God." But Liliana did not give up. She believed that God would change Felix.

Soon Felix was released from prison and sent back to Colombia. He decided that his marriage to Liliana would not work, and he ignored her. She followed him to Colombia anyway. Felix told her, "There's nothing for you here in Colombia. Go back to the United States."

"It was only through the strength of God," said Liliana, "that I stayed with Felix."

Felix told Liliana to quit going to church. He offered her money if she would forget about God and go to parties with him. She did not listen to Felix. Instead, she continued to pray for him.

One day, Liliana found the Cali Church of the Nazarene, where she met a woman who encouraged her to fight for her marriage. She reminded Liliana that Jesus cared for both her and Felix and that the church would be praying for them.

Liliana joined the Cali Church. Every time she went to church, she saved a seat beside her. If someone asked to sit there, she would say, "I'm sorry, this chair is for my husband." Then she prayed that someday he would come.

Felix continued to reject God. One night he challenged Liliana. "I want to know if your God is as powerful as you say He is."

Liliana prayed. "Lord, show him how powerful You are and how much You love him."

The next day, Felix asked for the pastor's phone number. At first, Liliana was afraid of what Felix might do. But she had been praying for God to show Felix His power and love. Now she needed to trust God, so she gave him the number. After Felix made the call, he met with the pastor for a long time that night.

When Felix returned home, Liliana met him at the door. She looked up at him and saw tears streaming down his face. He asked Liliana to forgive him and said, "Now your God is my God. I want to leave my old life behind me. Let's start a new life together."

Liliana thanked God for answering her prayers. Today she testifies. "We have a powerful God—a God who can do all things. We have to believe in Him, give Him our hearts, and trust Him. Without God, we cannot do anything. He is marvelous. Only God could do this work in Felix's life."

Today Felix and Liliana serve God in ministry in the country of Ecuador.

### STORY DISCUSSION

Discuss the following questions:

1. How was Liliana a disciple-maker?
2. Can you think of someone who needs to be in church and for whom you would save an empty chair?
3. Where are Felix and Liliana discipling others today?

Say, The members of the Casa de Oración Church of the Nazarene in Cali, Colombia, pray over every chair in the church before their weekend services. Every Tuesday morning they gather for prayer before work and school. On Wednesdays, the church members spend all day praying and fasting. They each sign up for two-hour time periods. Members of other churches from around the world have committed to pray and fast in the same way 24 hours a day, 2 days a week.

Use the following questions to lead a discussion about the power of prayer in making disciples and growing churches.

1. What opportunities for prayer could a church provide? (Prayer chains, prayer meetings, prayer groups, prayer walks, prayer and fasting, prayer breakfasts, prayer chapel, etc. If your church does not participate in some of these prayer initiatives, you may need to explain them to the children. Maybe the children will want to start a prayer activity of their own.)
2. How do you think prayer helps to grow a church? (Keeps the focus on God's plan, enables people to seek and know God's will, keeps the focus on spiritual resources, etc.)
3. In what ways can you be a part of the ministry of prayer?

Tell Children, **Although you are young, you can grow spiritually and become someone of influence.** The Casa de Oración Church of the Nazarene shows this same truth. It started with only a few members and has grown into a church of 8,000. Consider this: If every Christian were to lead just one person to Christ each year and to disciple that person to do the same, it would take about 35 years to reach the entire world for Christ! That's multiplication! Let's follow the example of the Casa de Oración Church and help reach our world for Christ.

### *PRAYER TIME*

Share the following prayer requests, then have children use one of the postures of prayer (kneeling, standing, sitting down) and offer sentence prayers.

- Pray for the pastors and church workers.
- Pray for those who are training to become pastors.
- Pray for those who need to hear about Jesus as their Savior.
- Pray for those who are sick and need healing,
- Pray for the church in Colombia to keep growing.
- Pray that God will continue to call people from Colombia to serve as missionaries in other places around the world where they will share the good news of Jesus Christ.

## LESSON 7: Peru

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children learn how the Gospel is taken into the entire world to people who are difficult to reach with Jesus' love.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Peru was the home of the ancient Inca Empire.
- Machu Picchu [MAH-chew PEE-chew], the ancient Inca ruins high in the Andes Mountains, is the most visited tourist attraction in Peru.
- The Amazon [AM-uh-Zahn] River begins in Peru.
- Nazarene mission work among the Aguaruna [AH-gwuh-REW-nuh] Indians is located on the Marañón [mahr-uh-NYOHN] River, one of the headwaters of the Amazon.
- Iquitos [ee-KEE-tohs], a city in the Amazon jungle, is the largest city in the world that can be reached only by airplane or boat.
- There are more than 3,000 festivals held in Peru each year, most of them related to a religion.

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### Introduction

In one area of the room, create a jungle atmosphere. Use lots of artificial and/or real plants to make a thick jungle setting. Put some stuffed animals, such as monkeys, birds, lizards, etc., in the trees and plants. Have the children sit in this space when you tell the story about Greg Garman. As the children enter the room, play some background music or jungle animal sounds. Darken the room to fit the jungle theme.

God calls some people to be His witnesses in every isolated place on our globe, like the jungles of Peru, where Larry and Addie Garman have served for more than 40 years. They raised a family in a jungle that was a remote location. They faced hardships and persecution. But the Garmans persevered. And God was faithful to His promise to go and be with them. The Kingdom is being established in the jungle of Peru.

Before class, write the six Fast Facts on different sheets of paper. Say, Today we're going to learn about Peru, a country in South America. Point to Peru on a map. Then hold up the Fast Facts, one at a time, and have volunteers read them aloud. (Be prepared to help children with pronunciations.)

Say, One of the ways people travel in the jungle of Peru is by river. They use the river like a street or road. In Peru, many people travel in canoes. They use paddles to move the canoe through the water. Today we're going to have a race on the Marañón River, which is an important river in Peru. It's one of the large rivers that flow into the Amazon River. Locate the rivers on the map.

Divide the class into two teams and give a paddle to the first person in each line. Say, Let's see how many Fast Facts you remember. Have a list of the Fast Facts from the previous lessons, too. If you answer correctly, you'll pass the paddle to the next player on your team. If you answer incorrectly, you'll keep the paddle and try one more time when it's your turn. The team who passes the paddle the most times is the winner. Give prizes to each team.

Say, Today's story is about Greg, a missionary kid who grew up in the jungle of Peru with his missionary parents.

## MISSION STORY: An MK's Jungle Life

by Wes Eby

"Greg, here's a fat, juicy worm," Rusty said. "That should catch a big catfish."

"Here's a whole bunch of them," Greg said, as he dug up a mud clump with his machete [muh-SHEH-tee] (a large knife-like a sword). We'll get lots of fish today."

"I think we have enough worms now," Rusty said. "Let's head to the river."

Greg and his older brother enjoyed digging earthworms for fish bait. As MKs (missionary kids) in the jungle of Peru, they liked their carefree life.

The brothers headed to a tree on the bank of the Marañón [Mahr-uh-NYOHN] River. "This is a perfect spot," Greg said. "Let's see what we can catch."

They tied their fishing lines to the tree branch and tossed the hooks with the worms into the water.

"Now we can go swimming. Last one in is a monkey," Greg said as he dove in first.

Once in a while the boys would look at the fishing lines. If the line was slack, they knew they did not have a fish. But if the line was tight, a fish was on the line. They would stop swimming long enough to take the fish off the hook and put more bait on it. Then they would plunge back into the river.

After about an hour, Greg said, "I'm hungry. Let's catch some tadpoles."

Greg and Rusty found some warm puddles where tadpoles gathered. They scooped them up in their hands and wrapped them in leaves. Then they built a fire and roasted the tadpoles.

"This is so good!" said Greg.

"Yeah. They're as good as roasted grub worms," added Rusty. "Let's catch some more."

The boys went to find more tadpoles.

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Today Greg will tell you, "That was the life I lived and enjoyed as a child."

Greg was four years old when his parents, Larry and Addie Garman, went to Peru as missionaries. Dr. Larry Garman felt that God had called him to be a missionary to the people in the jungle of Peru. He moved there with his wife and his three children, Rusty, Greg, and Candy.

"Our youngest brother, Tim, was born in Peru," Greg says. "I grew up in a loving and caring Christian home. When it was time to go to school, I attended boarding school. I always knew that Jesus wanted me to be His child. I asked Him more than once to come into my life."

One Christmas when Greg came home from school, he knew that he was not living as Jesus would like. "In our home in the middle of the Amazon jungle near the Marañón River," Greg says, "I knelt beside our couch and asked Jesus to forgive my sin and come into my life. This was one of the greatest Christmas vacations I ever had."

Today Greg is a minister in the Church of the Nazarene. He pastors a church in California. He still loves missions and makes trips each year to Peru to visit the people. He also leads Work & Witness teams to the jungle.

Rev. Greg Garman and his wife, Leslie, have two daughters, Aubree and Spencer. His family loves Peru, just as Greg does, and they have visited the country many times.

One year, Greg and his two daughters took a long bicycle ride in Peru. "We started in the city of Chiclayo [(chee-KLIE-yoh] in northern Peru near the Pacific Ocean," Greg says. "We cycled up and over the Andes Mountains and then down into the jungle. We ended at New Horizon, the Nazarene mission station where my parents have lived for many years. The trip was 300 miles, and it took us five days. The purpose of the bicycle ride was to raise money for two Bible schools in Peru, one of them in the jungle."

"Missions is for everyone," Rev. Garman says. "Nearly every summer our daughters are involved in some type of missions project. I will not stop supporting missions. It is where my heart belongs."

### STORY DISCUSSION

Say, Why do you think Rev. Greg Garman's children, Aubree and Spencer, love to go to Peru? Would you like to be a missionary's kid in the jungle of Peru? Why or why not?

After children have given their responses, say, Missionaries must learn to accept the culture of the people they serve. The Garmans accepted the culture of Peru. This made it possible for them to witness to the people about Jesus Christ and lead many to receive Jesus as their Savior.

Use Activity Sheet 7 to help children learn the scripture verse: "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Before class, write the scripture verse on a large sheet of paper or a piece of poster board.

Say, One of the places in Peru that people like to visit is Machu Picchu. This was one of the homes of the Inca Indians in Peru hundreds of years ago. Machu Picchu was built on the side of a mountain. The people built terraces on which to grow their crops. This made it difficult for outsiders and enemies to get to them.

Hold up the scripture verse and say, This Bible verse contains the words of Jesus. Read the verse aloud. Discuss with the children the meaning of Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth." Have the children read the Bible verse aloud two times. Then invite one or more of the volunteers to say it.

Distribute Activity Sheet 7 and go over the directions with the children before they begin. Encourage the children to take the verse home and memorize it.

### *PRAYER TIME*

Say, People in the jungle of Peru live a long distance from big cities. They often live by themselves. The Inca Indians built Machu Picchu high on a mountain so other people could not get to them. But there is no place that God cannot go. God can hear the prayers of people wherever they are in the world.

Ask, What prayer requests do you have for the people in the jungle of Peru? Guide the children to pray for:

- People to know Jesus as Savior
- The safety of missionaries as they travel and live in the jungle
- Work & Witness teams to help build churches in the jungle of Peru

Lead the children in a time of prayer. Encourage some children to say sentence prayers. Have children write out their prayer requests and add to their prayer kites.

## LESSON 8: Ecuador

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children discover how God works through prayer to protect and help missionaries in dangerous situations.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Ecuador is the Spanish word for equator.
- The famous Galapagos Islands, located off the coast of Ecuador, are home to some of the most unique animals in the world.
- The penguins that live off the coast of Ecuador are the only penguins found north of the equator.
- One of the best known Galapagos animals is the Galapagos giant tortoise, for which the islands are named.
- The llama, a cousin to the camel, is raised in Ecuador for transportation, wool production, and guarding livestock.
- Ecuador is called “Middle of the World” because the equator passes through it.

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### Introduction

On a table, display a colorful Indian blanket. Arrange pictures on it that are typical of Ecuador, such as volcanoes, mountain scenery, jungle flora and fauna, tropical rain forests, and beautiful beach scenes. Title a bulletin board—**EXPLORE ECUADOR**. Display a map of Ecuador on a background of yellow, royal blue, and red—colors of the Ecuadorian flag. Prepare a “treasure chest” for use in one of the lesson activities (use a jewelry box, decorated shoe box, or gift box). Label one corner of your room with a sign—**PRAYER CORNER**. Provide a table and chairs. On the table, place a basket of prayer requests for the children to select when they come to pray. Keep paper and pencils on the table so they can add their own prayer requests to the basket.

Before class, write each of the six Fast Facts on a slip of paper and place each one in an envelope labeled “EXPLORE ECUADOR.” Number the envelopes 1 – 6, and pin them on the bulletin board. Write the numbers 1–6 on small slips of paper and put them in the treasure chest.

Ask, **What does the word “explore” mean?** (To search for unknown information; to travel in order to discover something new.) Say, **Today we are going to explore Ecuador. We will learn some interesting things about this country. Let’s look at Ecuador on the world map. Note that Ecuador is located in South America and is bordered by the countries of Colombia and Peru, and by the Pacific Ocean. Point out Quito, the capital city.**

Say, **Ecuador is named for the imaginary line that runs through it. Does anyone know what this imaginary line is called?** (The equator runs around the middle of the earth, dividing it into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.) **A monument stands on the equator in Ecuador. It is a tourist attraction. If a person stands at the equator at noon, the person will not have a shadow.**

**Now, let’s discover a few other treasured facts about Ecuador. Ask six volunteers to draw numbers, one at a time, from the treasure chest. Have each volunteer read the Fast Fact in the envelope with the matching number. Tell children their exploration of Ecuador has just begun.**

All of our missionaries are heroes. They go into unknown lands and often unprotected places to follow God’s call. Our hero in this lesson is Don Cox, who was kidnapped while serving in Ecuador. His story is one of endurance and hope and of God’s faithfulness. The community of believers around the world shared the burden of Don’s kidnapping and lifted it as one voice to the Lord in prayer. When a

united effort such as this takes place, the Church is at its best and each individual is forever stronger in the faith. It is because of this faith-building experience that the Don Cox story should be told.

Say, This is a true story about Don Cox, a missionary hero. Don was kidnapped while serving in Quito, Ecuador, in 1995. His story is one of endurance, hope, and courage.

### MISSION STORY: Terror on the Mountain

by Bev Borbe

Missionary Don Cox awoke with a startled cry! Something was wrong. He was cold and hungry, and the sound of mosquitoes circled his head. His memory returned in a flash. It was just yesterday that he went downtown to meet someone who called about a car he was selling. Two men and a woman met with him and asked to drive the car before buying it. Don agreed. But when they headed out of town, Don knew he had made a mistake. They picked up two other men along the road, and it became five against one.

Now Don was in a dense, dark rain forest somewhere in the Andes Mountains of Ecuador. He was a long way from his home in Quito, his wife, Cheryl, and his four boys. He remembered walking a long way to get there, stumbling up and down mountains and through heavy underbrush. He was bruised, scratched, and very cold.

Two of the evil-looking men who had kidnapped Don now guarded him. From what he could tell, he was on an old wooden platform with some of his kidnapers sleeping underneath it. He pulled the blanket up around his head to keep out the hungry mosquitoes. His kidnapers had told him that he would be released after his family paid a half-million-dollar ransom. He knew his wife did not have that much money, nor did the Church of the Nazarene pay ransom. He wondered what would happen.

Days passed. Don hoped he would be rescued, but tall trees hid the mountain hideout. During the first week, Don used the only two weapons he had—prayer and his pocket Bible. Every morning, he prayed as loud as he could. During the day, he read entire books of the Bible with a loud, booming voice, so that his kidnapers could hear. The Word of the God filled their ears and thoughts. When the days ended and the cold nights came, Don would curl up with his blanket and say a prayer he learned as a child. “Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die...” He had done his best. His heart was at peace.

There was another weapon being used to help Don—the prayers of millions of Nazarenes around the world. As they prayed, God kept Don’s body from harm—though he was continually cold in the mountain air, hungry, thirsty, and faced possible torture and death. God also helped Cheryl and the boys during this very difficult time. And God helped the authorities to find clues, a negotiator to deal with the kidnapers, and the police to trace a call that led them to the kidnapers. The prayers of God’s people were a mighty force in the rescue of Don Cox!

As soon as the police and investigators knew where Don was being held, they were in their cars and on their way to the mountain hideout to rescue him. Up the mountains they climbed and down steep and dangerous roads and trails they walked. At last, they came to the area where Don’s kidnapers were holding him.

In the mountains, it grows dark early. The kidnapper who was guarding Don had gone to bed already. Within minutes, the police jumped on him, knocking his pistol away. At the same time, police rushed to Don, yelling, “Mr. Cox, we’re the police. You are saved!”

“I’ve been rescued!” thought Don. “I’m not going to die on this mountain!”

It was over. Missionary Don Cox was a free man.

It was Christmas Day, December 25, 1995. The plane carrying hero Don Cox back to the United States landed at O’Hare Airport in Chicago. Don was the first one off the plane. He hurried into the arms of his wife, Cheryl, and their four sons, Phil, Matt, Paul, and Mike. Amazingly, after all that time in the mountains, he still had \$400 cash in his pocket. The kidnapers had never found it. More importantly, he was free, he was warm, and he was home! This was the best Christmas Don had ever had!

#### STORY DISCUSSION

After reading the Don Cox story to the children, discuss the following questions:

1. During the time that Don Cox was held by his kidnapers, do you think he thought God had forgotten him?

2. What two things did Don do to show he was trusting in God? (Prayed and read the Bible.)
3. What is intercessory prayer? (Prayer that is said on behalf of, or for, another person.)
4. When you have a problem, would it help you to know others are praying for you?
5. Do you know someone who needs help right now? Could you pray for that person? Why would it be a good idea to tell the person you are praying for him or her? (It would encourage the person to let him or her know you are a partner in prayer, to help strengthen the person's faith.)

Take time for intercessory prayer. Tell children they do not have to use specific names of people if it would not be appropriate. Remind them to thank God for answers to prayer and for answering the prayers for Don Cox. Encourage children to pray daily for others.

Tell children they will each make a take-home booklet of the Don Cox story. Distribute Activity Sheet 8. Have children cut the booklet apart from the pictures. Demonstrate how to fold the booklet in thirds, accordion-style, beginning with the left side, in order to form six pages. On the first page (the cover), have children write the title, **TERROR ON THE MOUNTAIN**. On pages 5 and 6, have them number the pages and label them as follows: Rescue, Homecoming. Then let children color the pictures, cut them apart, and glue them on the pages of the booklet in the correct order.

Following are the words that will be used in the booklet:

1. Terror on the Mountain
2. Kidnapping
3. Mountain Hideout
4. Prayer
5. Rescue
6. Homecoming

Encourage children to take their booklets home to share with others and to remind them of the importance of prayer.

### ***PRAYER TIME***

Say, It is not often that we hear of missionaries being kidnapped as Don Cox was; but missionary hero stories are being made every day. We should continue to pray for those who are suffering and have to endure difficult situations. Every year, the Church of the Nazarene supports a day of prayer for the persecuted Christians of the world. Everyone is encouraged to participate by praying.

Let's remember the following requests as we pray now for the people of Ecuador:

#### Prayer Requests

- Pray that all will hear the Gospel.
- Pray that the church will continue to grow.
- Ask God to help the boys and girls in Ecuador in their schools, churches, and homes.
- Pray for the missionaries who serve them.
- Thank God for the blessings we have.

Ask children to write down their prayer requests and glue them on their prayer kites.

## LESSON 9: Brazil

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### *PURPOSE*

To make children aware of creative ways used to communicate the Gospel.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world. It takes up about half of South America.
- Brazil has won the World Cup football (soccer) tournament more times than any other country.
- In the Amazon rain forest, people sleep in hammocks.
- Brazil has the largest tropical rain forest in the world.
- People who live in the Amazon rain forest are called Amazonians.
- Amazonian children play in the rain forest where there are pink dolphins, razor-toothed piranha [puh-RAH-nuh] (a type of fish), and deadly anaconda snakes.

### *LESSON PREPARATION*

#### Introduction

Create your own rain forest with real or artificial foliage. As children enter the classroom, play a CD of jungle animal sounds or the sound of rushing or cascading water. On large sheets of paper, sponge yellow, green, and blue paint to create a variety of patterns and textures. After the paint dries, cut out leaf shapes to form the border for a bulletin board. Cover the board with green paper and title it "The Amazon Rain Forest." Display pictures of animals, birds, fish, insects, and flowers that are found in the rain forest. (Google "Amazon rain forest animals" or look up the topic in books in the library for examples.) If possible, display a hammock. Tape blue paper on the floor to represent the Amazon River. Let children sit on the "riverbank" as they participate in the lesson.

Of the 62 cities along the Amazon River, 10 are accessible by road, the other 52 only by water. There are 20,000 communities that have not been reached by the Gospel. Reverend Manuel Lima [LEE-muh], a missionary from Brazil, was a pastor in São Paulo for 24 years and then felt called to the Amazon to evangelize and plant new churches. He dreamed of having a boat that would take him to minister in these communities. In time, enough money to purchase a used riverboat was raised, and half of it came from churches in Brazil. The boat, named *Jesus the Hope*, carries a JESUS Film team and provides a clinic and a radio station that broadcasts to thousands.

Before the lesson, make six cutouts of boats and write the six Fast Facts on them.

Say, On the map you can see how large Brazil is. It takes up almost half of South America. Brazil has the largest rain forest in the world. People who live in the rain forest are called Amazonians. Let's imagine what it would be like to live in the Amazon rain forest.

If you were an Amazonian, you might live in a house made of sticks tied together with vines or built with unpainted planks. Your mother would probably make the bread you eat, and your father would likely hunt with bow and arrows. Your lunch might be a fat monkey cooked in the shell of an armadillo.

Ask, How are you taught your school lessons. Say, If you were an Amazonian child, you might listen to your school lessons on the radio. Then you might play in the rain forest where there are pink dolphins, razor-toothed piranha, and anaconda snakes.

Ask, Where do you go for help when you get sick? Say, In the Amazon jungle, there probably would not be a doctor or clinic nearby. A missionary doctor might come by boat on the Amazon River to provide care and share God's love.

Review the Fast Facts of Brazil by reading them aloud from the six boats.

### Make a Rain Stick

Before class, cut out the end circles for each child's tube. Make a sample rain stick. Experiment with the type and amount of filler to get the sound you like.

1. Trace the opening of a paper towel tube on poster board.
2. Draw a circle 1" larger around the first circle.
3. Cut out the larger circle to make a pattern.
4. Using the pattern, cut 2 circles to cover the ends of each tube.
5. Cut 1" slits on the outer edge of each circle, about ½" apart.

Say, In the Amazon rain forest, it rains every day. Today we're going to make rain sticks as a reminder to thank God for the rain forest and to pray for the Amazonians who live there.

Distribute the materials and have children make their rain sticks as follows.

1. Cover one end of the tube with a circle by folding the flaps over the edge and taping them to the tube.
2. Crumple the foil lengthwise and slide it into the tube.
3. Add one-fourth to one-half cup filler (dry beans, rice, peas).
4. Cover the other end of the tube, tape, then decorate.
5. Slowly turn the rain stick upside down to hear the "rain."

### MISSION STORY: Set Free

by Carol Anne Eby

Say, Pastor Manuel Lima is a missionary from Brazil. He travels on a riverboat, *Jesus the Hope*, to many small villages along the Black River in the Amazon jungle. This story tells how he helped a family in need of hope.

Thick darkness covered the rain forest as the ministry boat, *Jesus the Hope*, docked along the Black River. São [SOU] Sebastiao [se-BAS-tee-ou] was the destination. Ministry teams had visited here before on the boat that carried the JESUS Film, provided a clinic, and broadcasted the Gospel by radio. The boat brought hope to this isolated area of the Amazon. Lives had been changed and a new church planted.

It was one o'clock in the morning when Pastor Manuel and his team got off the riverboat and into a canoe. As they traveled through the murky waters, they were guided by only one point of light—a flashlight held by those waiting on shore.

"Look, Pastor," one of the team members whispered. "Crocodiles!"

Pastor Manuel saw the croc's eyes just above the surface of the water. They were shining like two fireballs in the night. He breathed a prayer as he and his team made it to land. By flashlight, they walked along the path to the house of Barnabe [BAHR-nuh-bay] and his wife, Sandra, who were serving as their hosts.

"Welcome, Pastor!" Barnabe exclaimed with a joyful smile.

The ministry team entered the small house occupied by the parents and their eight sleeping children.

The next morning, Pastor Manuel awoke to the sounds of the jungle. Monkeys were chattering, and the birds were calling. Sandra gave each member of the team a piece of bread and a cup of milk. She looked at the children and said, "Run along while our visitors eat."

As the children went outside, the team realized that if they did not leave a bit of bread on their plates, the children would not have any.

The pastor observed the family during the day as they worked around the house. His heart was saddened as he looked at the unpainted planks, the bits and pieces of tin used as a roof, and the poor furnishings of the house. The family had a simple lifestyle with no electricity, little water, and practically nothing to eat.

One of the team members commented, "Pastor, they are so poor, yet they seem so happy."

Pastor Manuel answered, "Yes, except for Elcilei [el-si-LAY] and Elcimeire [el-si-may-RAY], two of their young daughters. I wonder why they look so sad."

That night, the family and all of their neighbors gathered in a small Nazarene chapel nearby. During the service, the two young daughters suddenly began to shake and make strange sounds. Several men helped them out of the church.

"Pastor, please help my girls," begged their father. "They behave so strangely. They cry and seem so angry. Please help them!"

Pastor Manuel visited some of the people in the village the next day. He asked, "Why do these young girls act this way? What makes them so sad?"

One of the village leaders said, "We think the prayers of the Nazarene women are to blame. They pray eight hours every day! They're disturbing the souls of the dead people in the cemetery behind the church."

Pastor Manuel realized that the people were afraid of the evil spirits and the power of Satan. He went back to his team and said, "We must fast and pray that God will come to this place in a mighty way and that Satan will be defeated. I believe Satan is using his power to torment these girls. Satan is trying to destroy all of the good work here, but God wants to do a great work in this place."

Pastor Manuel went to the girls and asked to pray with them. At first they were frightened, but they knelt with him as he poured out his heart to God. God answered prayer. The girls were delivered and gave their lives to Jesus Christ. They were set free and now have a strong faith and joy in their hearts. Now Barnabe and Sandra have eight children who are happy and have smiles on their faces. The boat brought Jesus, the Hope, and He will never leave them.

### STORY DISCUSSION

Say, To the people of the Amazon, the river is life. Most of the villages along the river can be reached only by boat.

Pastor Manuel Lima felt called to the Amazon to minister to families suffering not only physically, but also spiritually. He dreamed of having a boat that would take him to minister in these villages. In time, there were enough funds raised to purchase a riverboat. It was named *Jesus the Hope*. Jesus also ministered from a boat. Luke 5:3 says, "Then [Jesus] sat down and taught the people from the boat."

The boat, which carries the JESUS Film team, a clinic, and a radio station, provides creative ways of sharing the Gospel. Ask, What are some other ways that the Gospel can be communicated? (Possible answers: television; CD; teaching; preaching; singing; Work & Witness teams; evangelism tools, such as the EvangeCube, Evangelism Ball, etc.)

Distribute Activity Sheet 9 and tell children to connect the dots to complete the picture of the boat, *Jesus the Hope*. Note that the name on the boat is written in Portuguese, which is the national language of Brazil. Then have the children color the boat that takes Pastor Manuel and his team to the Amazon jungle to share the Gospel.

### PRAYER TIME

Before class, visit [www.worldmissionbroadcast.org](http://www.worldmissionbroadcast.org) and check with your NMI president about the World Mission Broadcast Offering.

Say, You have learned many things about Brazil. One of the most important things you should remember is that Jesus brings hope to people in need. Let's pray for Pastor Manuel and his team as they minister with *Jesus the Hope*. Pray that many more boys and girls and their families will come to know Jesus.

You can make a difference by praying. You can also make a difference by giving. In the next few weeks, you can help fill our "bank" with offerings. The offerings will help World Mission Broadcast to continue sending the Gospel to the Amazon jungle and all over Brazil through radio programs. Radio can go where missionaries can't go, and Jesus can speak to people's hearts.

Glue prayer requests for Pastor Manuel and his team on the prayer kites.

## LESSON 10: Bolivia

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children understand that the Gospel was meant to be shared with everyone.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- In Bolivia, there are several people groups, including the Aymara [ie-muh-RAH] Indians.
- Many Bolivians believe in nature worship called animism [A-nuh-mi-zuhm].
- Llamas are related to camels, but do not have humps.
- The Andean condor is the national bird of Bolivia. It is the largest flying bird in the Western Hemisphere.
- Bolivia's flat mountainous region of the Andes is called the Altiplano [al-ti-PLAH-noh].
- Bolivia and Peru share the shores of Lake Titicaca [ti-ti-KAH-kah], the highest lake that is also deep enough for boat travel.

### *LESSON PREPARATION*

#### Introduction

Set up a corner of the room to resemble a radio broadcasting station. Create a booth for two announcers by cutting a "window" in a large box, such as a refrigerator box. Cover the outside of the box with black paper, or use black paint. Inside the booth, place two chairs and two pretend microphones. If possible, borrow old radios to display. Play Christian music as children enter the room. Hang travel posters of Bolivia.

Missionaries to Bolivia minister in a nation where 95 percent of the people claim to be Catholic. However, many mix Catholicism with animistic beliefs and rituals. Animism is the belief that spirits exist in things of nature, such as plants, animals, mountains, and rivers. After participating in a mass, a Bolivian may present an offering to a nature spirit on his or her way home. Others may bring food and drink to a crucifix like they do with their animistic spirit worship.

These people have religion, and yet they are lost. They fear the spirits. They need a saving relationship with God that comes through faith in Christ. This faith is something that must be shared because the Gospel is for everyone.

Say, Bolivia is a country in South America. It shares its borders with five other countries: Paraguay, Argentina, Chile, Peru, and Brazil. Point to these countries on a map.

Say, Bolivia has three very different kinds of landscapes—the dry Andes mountains, featuring the second largest plateau in the world, called the Altiplano; the wet tropical rain forests in the Amazon basin; and a very hot and dry forested lowland area.

Locate Lake Titicaca on the map. Say, Bolivia and Peru border the shores of Lake Titicaca, the largest lake in South America. At nearly 12,000 feet above sea level, it is the highest lake that is also deep enough for boat travel.

Tell children that Bolivia is home to a number of people groups, including the Aymara Indians. Say, Most Aymara live in the Altiplano where conditions are harsh. They grow crops and herd animals. Many people in Bolivia raise their own crops and livestock. The llama, which is related to the camel, is a common animal to raise in Bolivia. Llamas are prized for very soft wool, which is used to make clothes, blankets, and rugs.

Say, The Church of the Nazarene in Bolivia has more than 250 churches with a total of about 12,000 members. There is also a Nazarene seminary in La Paz [lah PAHS], one of Bolivia's two capital cities.

Review the Fast Facts before the mission story.

## MISSION STORY: The Curse of the Three Frogs

By Gina Grate Pottenger

Say, Linda Spalding served as a missionary nurse in Bolivia, where she shared her faith in Christ with people who held animistic beliefs.

Rosa walked toward the village water faucet, carrying a bucket and humming a song she had learned at the Nazarene church.

The 16-year-old passed the little grocery store where the owner and his wife gave shots and medicine to people in the village. However, they had no training. Until the Nazarene clinic opened down the dirt road, the store was the only place where villagers could receive medical treatment.

The storeowner's wife came outside to dump a tub of dirty water in the bushes. Rosa smiled, but the woman glared at her.

"Hey," she called to Rosa, "tell that missionary lady to go back where she came from. We don't need another clinic here."

Rosa's smile faded as she hurried away. After filling the bucket with water, she carefully carried it to the Nazarene clinic. As she unlocked the door, Rosa gasped. A large frog lay upside down in the grass with its white belly facing the sky and its throat cut open.

"Oh, no!" Rosa cried.

"What's wrong?" asked a voice behind her.

Rosa turned to see Linda Spalding, the missionary nurse who ran the Nazarene clinic.

"You've been cursed. Señora [sen-YOHR-uh] Linda! The person who sent this frog will send two more. When you receive the third frog, you will die. I think it's the storeowner's wife who has put a curse on you! She doesn't like your clinic. Maybe you should close it."

"It will be OK," Linda said, as she picked up the bucket of water and led Rosa inside. "Do you remember when you asked Jesus to forgive your sins?"

Rosa nodded.

Linda smiled. "Jesus is more powerful than any curse. I know your family and many others believe that spirits live in trees, animals, and other things of nature. But God created everything on earth, including that frog. That means the Lord who has power over everything has power over curses too. He will protect us. Do you believe that is true?"

Rosa took a deep breath and thought for a moment. A peaceful feeling came over her.

"Let's pray together and ask Jesus to protect us from the curse," Linda suggested.

"OK," Rosa said.

"Dear Jesus," Linda began, "Rosa and I know that You are the Master over all the earth. We trust You to protect us from this curse. We also ask You to change the hearts of those who would curse this clinic."

Rosa added, "Jesus, thank You for bringing Señora Linda to us. She has helped many people who were sick. Thank You for protecting us."

"Amen," Linda and Rosa said together.

"I feel much better now, Señora," Rosa said.

"Then let's get to work!" Linda said.

The next morning when Rosa arrived at the clinic, she found another frog upside down next to the door.

When Linda arrived, Rosa began to cry. "It's the second frog! If they bring the third one tomorrow, you will die!"

Linda reminded Rosa of Jesus' promise, and they prayed for the storeowner and his wife to invite Jesus into their lives.

On the third day, Rosa expected to find the last frog by the clinic door. After spending her life fearing the spirits in nature, she still struggled to believe in God's protection. She looked all around the clinic for the last frog.

Someone with a kind voice called out, "What are you doing, Rosa?"

Rosa spun around laughing. "No frog, Señora Linda! No frog! Jesus protected us, just like you said!"

Rosa glanced toward the grocery store where the owner's wife was hanging towels on the fence to dry. She stopped when she saw Rosa and hurried inside.

"Maybe we should invite the owner and his wife to church," Rosa said to Linda.

"That's a great idea," Linda agreed. "Let's stop at the store to say 'hi' after we close the clinic today. Perhaps we can become friends."

After this experience, Rosa's faith in Jesus grew stronger. Linda and her family became friends with the storeowner and his wife. A few years later, Rosa trained as a nurse at a Methodist hospital. She remained friends with Linda, who left Bolivia for another missionary assignment.

#### STORY DISCUSSION

Lead children in reading aloud Acts 10:34-35. Say, These verses tell us that God wants all people from all nations to have a relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus Christ. Even when Rosa was practicing animistic beliefs, God was concerned about her and wanted her to come to salvation. When people ask Jesus to be their Savior, He accepts them all—no matter who they are or what they have done wrong.

When we share our faith with people we meet, like Rosa, and send missionaries around the world, like Linda Spalding, we make it possible for people to come to Jesus. He sets them free from the fear of evil spirits and curses.

Distribute Activity Sheet 10. Say, Hidden in these numbers is a picture of a man and woman from a Bolivian native people group called the Aymara. This people group lives in the high plains region of the Andes mountains. Aymara clothing is very colorful and fits life in the mountains. It brightens the high plains landscape. Men usually wear striped ponchos over shirts and pants. Knitted wool hats with flaps keeps their ears warm. Felt hats may be worn over the wool hats. Women wear felt rounded hats and shawls for warmth. Their full skirts are brilliant shades of orange, purple, red, and blue.

Tell the children to connect the dots in numerical order, starting with number 1, and coloring the landscape and Aymara clothing.

#### *PRAYER TIME*

Remind the children to pray for Nazarene churches in Bolivia, for the missionaries and pastors and leaders who share the Gospel with people who need to be set free from their fear of evil spirits. Let the children write down prayer requests and attach them to their prayer kites.

# LESSON 11: Argentina

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## *PURPOSE*

To challenge children to pray specifically and consistently for others.

## *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

### Fast Facts

- Buenos Aires, the capital city of Argentina, is known as the “Paris of South America.”
- An herb-based tea called “mate” [MAH-tay] is the national drink of Argentina.
- Gouchos [GOU-chohs] are Argentine “cowboys” who live and work on cattle ranches in the pampas [PAHM-pahs].
- Each year 500,000 Magellan Penguins return to the Atlantic coast of Argentina to breed.
- The remains of some of the world’s oldest known dinosaurs have been found in Argentina. In 1988, the bones of Argentinosaurus were discovered.
- Iguazú [ee-gwuh-SOO] Falls is the second largest waterfall in the world.

## *LESSON PRESENTATION*

### Introduction

Argentina is a magnificent country with a great variety of climates and geographical features. It has a lot of European influence, and Spanish is their language. As missionaries pray for their neighbors and friends, acts of kindness and sharing simple gifts speak louder than words. God talks to people’s hearts. Help children discover that they can be part of God’s work as they consistently pray for others.

Decorate the room with tropical décor or a jungle scene with birds and animals (toucans and monkeys) on the north wall, pictures of icebergs on the south wall, a mountain scene on the west wall, and a city scene and a beach scene with penguins and whales on the east wall.

Display food items such as tortillas, taco shells, beans, rice, tea, pasta, beef, Polish sausage, fish, vegetables, thin-crust pizza, French bread, caramel spread. If you live in the northern hemisphere, wear clothing that is opposite the current season. For example, if it is winter where you are, wear summer clothes. Show different kinds of hats, such as cowboy, beret, stocking cap, and sunbonnet. Be sure to include a soccer ball to represent the national sport.

Set chairs, facing south, in rows with three to five seats on either side of a center aisle to represent the seating in a large airplane.

Before the lesson, prepare the “in-flight” snack. Spread caramel on baguette slices. Place the baguette slices and cups of tea on serving trays.

Prepare children for their airplane trip. On a map, point out the country of their destination, Argentina. Have children “board the plane” and take their seats. If you live in the northern hemisphere, tell them it is the opposite season there in Argentina. Say to the passengers, Buen Dia [bwayn DEE-ah]. Explain that these words mean “Good morning” or “Good day.”

Say, Welcome aboard Argentina Airlines Flight 101. I hope you enjoy your trip. To make your travel more enjoyable, I’d like to offer you an “in-flight” snack of bread and caramel with tea. After collecting the cups and leftover snacks, let passengers know you will point out places of interest they can see “out their windows” as they approach their destination.

Note the murals or posters on the walls as you say, As we “fly over Argentina,” you’ll see the Andes mountains out your west windows. Looking behind you to the north, you will see the amazing Iguazú Falls and its surrounding jungle. Now we’re flying directly over the grassland and farmland of Argentina. There is also a dinosaur excavation going on in the middle of the country. Straight ahead, southward, are ice glaciers and the end of the Pan-American Highway. As we descend, you’ll notice the whales and penguins near the eastern shore of the Atlantic

Ocean. Finally, out your northeast window, you'll see the international airport where we will land in Buenos Aires, the capital city. Nearly 13 million people live there.

Thank your passengers for a delightful flight and for their good attention. Wish them well as they tour and learn more about Argentina.

## MISSION STORY: My Mom and the Missionary

by Anne Rudeen

Say, this story tells how God brought two families together—one with a need for friends, one with a need for Christ.

My name is Manuel. I was too young to remember our move from Peru to Argentina. But I do remember growing up in the back of the store where we lived. My dad worked in the store, sanding, staining, and selling wooden cabinets, chairs, and tables.

Mom didn't get out much, except to buy groceries. She seemed kind of sad. I don't think she had any friends. I know I didn't. I was lonely and bored most of the time, although I did have two big rottweiler dogs.

One day, a lady with blonde hair, blue eyes, and white skin walked into our shop with a young blonde-haired boy. I peeked out from the back room and heard her ask my dad, "Do you know of a family from Peru with two big dogs and a boy the same age as my son?" My dad told her that we were that family. I'll never forget the smile on her face.

Meeting that lady and her son changed our family's future. They were foreigners to Argentina, just like us. And they needed friends, just like us.

I found out that the lady was a missionary with the Church of the Nazarene. Ana and her son Jordan came to see us often. Sometimes Mom talked to her, but most of the time, she was too shy to say hello. Although Mom still seemed sad, when the missionary came, she smiled more. Somehow they understood each other, even though Ana's Spanish was not very good.

When the missionary invited us to her house for lunch one December day, Mom accepted. The food was different, but I sure liked playing in the little swimming pool with Jordan. In fact, I was excited whenever we were invited to their house. I couldn't understand what Jordan said in English; however, we had no problem playing together.

I remember the day Ana came over with a plate of round, brown things. She said they were chocolate chip cookies. I'd never tasted chocolate chip cookies before. Oh! They were delicious!

When Jordan's family invited us to visit their church, we found it different from the church we had attended. The people raised their hands and sang with smiles on their faces.

Soon after attending Jordan's church, Mom took me to watch a film at a neighbor's house. It told the story of Jesus. I cried when I saw how they put Jesus on a cross and killed Him. After the film, someone invited us to let Jesus forgive our sins and come into our hearts. My mom didn't respond, but I could see the tears in her eyes.

A few days later, Mom went to visit Ana. I wondered why she didn't take me with her. I soon found out.

My mom wasn't sad anymore. She told me that she had accepted Jesus as her Savior. I didn't know what that meant, but I knew she was happy. Mom hugged me and sang to me more, and she often read from a special book.

Whatever had happened, it was good news for me. I went to Sunday School with Jordan most every Sunday. We had fun games, crafts, and stories. I really liked singing and learning about Jesus.

I finally understood why Mom wasn't sad anymore. She liked to share with her friends and family about how God changed her life. And I know He did. He changed my life, too.

If our missionary friend Ana still lived here, she would not find my mom hiding in the back room of our furniture store. Instead, she'd find her managing the store, smiling and ready to give her a hug! I'm so happy Ana and Jordan came searching for friends that day. I'm even happier they prayed for us and shared their chocolate chip cookies. They never stopped praying for us, and God never stopped working in our lives.

## STORY DISCUSSION

Ask, What are some simple gifts you could give a new friend or neighbor that might help you become friends and share the Gospel?

Say, Throughout our lesson, we will focus on the importance of praying for others. Sometimes we have to pray a long time for someone to know Jesus. Sometimes we don't have to pray long at all. God wants us to continually pray for others and to know that He will faithfully answer our prayers. To help us remember this, we're going to play a typical Argentine game. You may have played this game and know it by another name. Today we're going to play the game using the words, "Pray, Pray, God Answers."

Have the children sit in a circle. Choose one child to walk around the outside of the circle, touching the shoulder of each child. While walking around the circle, the child repeats the word, "Pray." When the child touches someone's shoulder and says, "God Answers," that child stands up and chases the first child around the outside of the circle, trying to tag him or her before the child sits in the empty spot. The game continues as the one now standing walks around the circle, touching each shoulder and saying the word, "Pray." After the game, have children repeat the words together, "Pray, pray, God answers."

Before class, cut Activity Sheet 11, part "A" apart from part "B."

Ask, What beverage do people most often drink in the country where you live? Let children respond. Say, In Argentina almost everyone drinks mate. This warm herbal tea is the national drink.

To prepare mate, ground-up leaves are poured into a mate cup. Then hot water is poured over them until the tealeaves rise to the top. To drink the flavored water—and not the tea leaves, a special metal straw is used with a strainer on one end. Since the herbal flavor is naturally bitter, many people prefer to add sugar.

Drinking mate is a unique experience. Only one mate cup and one straw are shared among friends. When the cup is empty, it is refilled with water and passed on to the next person. This process is repeated several times. Sitting around, chatting, and drinking mate is a cultural expectation and an expression of friendship to old and new friends.

Say, Mate cups come in all shapes and sizes. They are made from gourds, wood, ceramic, and even cow hoofs. There are many different styles. Show pictures (from the Internet or library books), if possible.

Say, Just like mate cups are different, God has purposefully created each one of us differently. He knows that we all need Him. Wherever we come from, whatever our situation, God wants to meet our needs. God wants us to care about others, too. He wants us to pray for them and reach out to them.

Ask the children to think of two or three people they feel led to pray for consistently until they come to know Jesus personally. Give children Activity Sheet 11A and tell them to write the names of those people on the lines in the mate cup. Give the children a few minutes to decorate their cups and cut them out. Suggest placing the cup in their Bibles or in their rooms as a reminder to pray for others with confidence that God will answer.

To review the Fast Facts about Argentina, hand out Activity Sheet 11B. Have children draw lines to match the facts in the mate cups with pictures on the map.

## *PRAYER TIME*

Say, As we've "traveled" through Argentina, we have learned many interesting things about the country and its people. We've learned that missionaries pray specifically and consistently for the people they serve. And we've seen how the gift of friendship makes it possible to share the Gospel.

Have the children write prayer requests for family and friends and attach them to their prayer kites.

## LESSON 12: Paraguay

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### *PURPOSE*

To help children understand how important it is for missionaries to communicate the Gospel in the native language of the people they serve.

### *BACKGROUND INFORMATION*

#### Fast Facts

- Paraguay is sometimes known as the “Heart of South America,” due to its central location in South America.
- Spanish and Guaraní [gwah-ruh-NEE] are the two official languages of Paraguay.
- Capybara [kap-ee-BAIR-uh], the world’s largest rodent, lives in Paraguay and grows up to 4.5 feet long.
- The seventh largest river in the world, the Paraná [pahr-ah-NAH] River, runs along the border between Paraguay and Argentina.
- The Itaipu [ee-tah-POO] hydroelectric power plant is the largest of its kind in the world.
- The “World’s biggest barbecue” was held in Paraguay in 2008. In 6 hours, 30,000 people ate more than 30 tons of barbecue.

### *LESSON PRESENTATION*

#### Introduction

The anaconda, the largest snake in the world, is commonly found in the jungles of Paraguay. This snake is greenish brown with black rings on its back. To represent this feature of Paraguay, have children make paper chains of green and black construction paper to hang in the room. Since Paraguay is sometimes known as the “Heart of South America,” decorate a bulletin board with a border of hearts. On the board, display a picture of the Paraguayan flag and/or an outline of the country. Have a barbecue recipe cooking in a slow cooker as children enter the room. During the lesson, let children sample the barbecue.

Communicating the Gospel is the most important task of missionaries. In order to do this, they need to understand the culture and the language of the people they serve. The people they serve must also understand them. The experience of volunteer Nazarene missionaries Ted and Sarah Voigt will express the difficulties and joys found in learning another language. This is the first step in telling others about Jesus.

Say, Today’s lesson is about Paraguay. Let’s begin with the Fast Facts about this country. You may print them on heart-shaped paper and let the children read them aloud.

Say, As you learned from the Fast Facts, Guaraní is one of the two official languages of Paraguay. In many countries more than one language is spoken. Therefore, when missionaries go to other countries, it is sometimes necessary for them to learn more than one language so they can do daily tasks and communicate the Gospel.

One’s native language (the language spoken at home) is known as the maternal language, or “mother tongue.” When missionaries go to another country, they speak the language of that country when they are in public. But most likely when they pray, they will speak to God in their “mother tongue” because it is closest to the heart. This has led some to identify their “mother tongue” as their “heart language.”

Let’s learn a few words in the Guaraní language, which is spoken by four out of five Paraguayans. This language is truly the “heart language” for the majority of people living in this country known as the “Heart of South America.”

Hand out Activity Sheet 12. Have children use different colors to follow the lines and match the hearts with words in their own language to the hearts with Guaraní words. Then say each Guaraní word and have the children repeat it after you. Let children practice their new language skills with a partner.

After practicing how to pronounce the Guaraní words, discuss why it is important to communicate to others in a language they understand.

| English   | (Language Translation) | Guaraní        | Pronunciation          |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Hello     | _____                  | Mga'eichapa    | [um-BIE-ee-chah-puh]   |
| Good-bye  | _____                  | Jajohech apeve | [hah-hoy-CHAH pay-vay] |
| Yes       | _____                  | Hee            | [HEH]                  |
| No        | _____                  | Nahaniri       | [nah-NEE-dree]         |
| Please    | _____                  | Ikatupa        | [ee-kah-TOO-pah]       |
| Thank you | _____                  | Agujjetaite    | [Ah-vee-kuh-DIE-tay]   |

### MISSION STORY: All in the Way You Say It by Matt Price

Say, It is important for missionaries to be understood when sharing the Gospel with people of another culture.

More than 400 years ago, a European priest living in the jungles of Paraguay began to put the Guaraní language into written form. A few years later, another priest put together a dictionary, grammar book, and a discipleship manual in the same language; these tools are still used today. They have helped Christianity to take root in Paraguay.

In 1968, the ministry of the Church of the Nazarene began a small house church. Juan Garcia gave his heart to Christ and his life to ministry as one of the first Nazarene pastors from Paraguay. From then until now, the Church of the Nazarene in Paraguay has been communicating the Gospel to the next generation.

God has used missionaries to communicate the good news of Jesus Christ. The first missionaries arrived in the 1980s—one from England and several from the United States. In the 1990s, Ramón and Blanca Sierra arrived from Puerto Rico as missionaries to Paraguay.

Ted and Sarah Voigt learned just how difficult it is to communicate in a new language while still learning it. Once Ted tried to explain to a friend how he made the refried beans served for dinner. He told her that he cooked and mashed the beans before adding a little bit of “siete” [see-EH-tay]. She asked him to repeat what he had said. When he did, she started giggling, as did the others around the table. Instead of saying he added a little “aciete [ah-se-EH-tay], meaning “cooking oil,” he had said he added a little “siete,” meaning “seven.” His friends kidded him the rest of the night, suggesting the food would be better if the food contained a little more “ocho” [OH-choh] meaning “eight,” or “nueve,” [new-EH-vay], meaning “nine.”

Another time, Sarah was teaching a lesson on Christian love to a group of children. She spoke Spanish while someone translated her words into Guaraní. When she spoke about love, the children looked unconcerned and confused. They did not understand the Spanish word for love, which is “amor” [ah-MOR]. She had to try several other words before they understood the meaning she was trying to explain.

Ted and Sarah knew only a few words in Spanish before going to Paraguay. They had a tutor helping them to learn the new language. They discovered that it is necessary to practice speaking the language while trying to learn it. They also learned that it meant sometimes people would laugh at them. They made mistakes, but kept on trying until they said the right thing.

Missionaries need to be understood, not only to accomplish everyday tasks, but also to tell others about Jesus. Missionaries have a single purpose—to communicate the love and good news of Jesus. Ted and Sarah Voigt learned this lesson firsthand as new volunteer missionaries in Paraguay.

Misunderstandings occur when missionaries try to learn the “heart language” of another people. But it is the best way to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ with the people they serve.

## STORY DISCUSSION

Ask, Why is it important for missionaries to learn the language of the people they serve? What things did Ted and Sarah Voigt do that helped them learn the language?

Before class, select 10 words from the lesson and write them on the board. (Examples: Guaraní, missionary, volunteer, language, communication, heart, river, Paraguay, basket, barbecue, anaconda, alphabet, rodent, etc.)

Say, You've learned how important language is in communicating the Gospel. One word can change the meaning of what you meant to say. Sometimes communication is like a puzzle. Today you can review some important words we've learned in this lesson by making your own word search puzzle.

Discuss the vocabulary list. Then distribute the paper and have children make their puzzles by first placing the vocabulary words horizontally, vertically, and diagonally in the squares on the paper. When all of their words are in place, tell children to fill the empty squares with any letters they choose. Then let children exchange puzzles and circle the hidden words.

## *PRAYER TIME*

Remind the children that Paraguay is known as the "Heart of South America" because of its central location in South America. On the map, point out the countries surrounding Paraguay that you have studied: Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil. Also locate Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador.

Review some of the prayer requests for these countries. Have the children each cut out a large heart shape from construction paper and write a prayer request on it. Add these hearts to your classroom bulletin board. Remind the children that God loves all people. Ask them to pray for missionaries and pastors who share God's love with people in the countries of Mexico/Central America and South America regions.

Let children pray for missionaries who are learning new languages, missionaries and volunteers who are serving in Paraguay, and missionaries being sent from Paraguay and other countries.

Have the children write the prayer requests on small hearts, glue them to the prayer kites, and send the prayer kites home with children. Encourage the children to display their kites as reminders to pray for those who share the Gospel message and for people who hear it.