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ADULT/YOUTH CURRICULUM

Living Mission—Act Justly Lesson/CAUSE Overviews

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.

Lesson 1: Clean Water

Unsafe drinking water is one of the world's biggest killers. How is the Nazarene Global Mission bringing Christ's love to world areas through the provision of safe drinking water? What can you do to provide clean water to people in various locations around the globe?

Lesson 2: Mission to Women

Mission efforts specific to women are necessary. Consider how the rights, protections, and laws regarding women have changed through the years in your own country. In many areas of the world, women are forced to marry too young, are not allowed or cannot afford an education, and cannot apply for loans that would enable them to start small businesses for themselves or go to school to create better lives for themselves and their children.

Lesson 3: Global Melting Pot

Mission—ministry to those in another culture—is a specialized skill requiring not only language school but special education in the values, behaviors, and traditions of other cultures. What is xenophobia, how does it affect mission, and what processes are necessary to combat this problem? How do Nazarene missionaries in other parts of the world confront this issue?

Lesson 4: Mission to the Disabled

Because of the lack of government assistance to the disabled in most countries, having a physical handicap is often comparable to a slow death sentence due to the many problems that often accompany disabilities. What is Nazarene Global Mission doing about care for the physically challenged around the world? How can you assist Nazarene efforts in ministry to the disabled?

Lesson 5: Sanctity of Life

All forms of violence threaten the sanctity of life wherever it occurs. Ministering to those who have been hurt not only fulfills Christ's command to care for the least of these, but also models God's love in Christian witness. How do the issues of violence and the sanctity of life intersect with missions in the Church of the Nazarene, providing opportunity to show God's love? How do these issues present obstacles and danger to the mission work and the workers?

Lesson 6: Child Labor

Millions of children are being forced to work to maintain subsistence living, and this condition creates physical and developmental hazards. What are Global Mission and Nazarene Missions International doing to work against the injustices of child labor around the globe?

CAUSES

CAUSE 1: Clean Water

The Church of the Nazarene has always been concerned about the holistic transformation of people through Jesus Christ. We must care for others as Christ cares for them. Most of us take clean water for granted, but clean water is a basic necessity to which one billion people around the world do not have access. By means of clean water, how does the Church of the Nazarene help to bring hope to people around the world?

CAUSE Week 1: **Why Water?**

CAUSE Week 2: **Clean Water Initiative**

CAUSE Week 3: **Children Need Clean Water**

CAUSE Week 4: **Water of Life**

CAUSE Week 5: **A Day Without Water**

CAUSE Week 6: **How Much Water Do I Use?**

CAUSE Week 7: **Success in Marigot**

CAUSE Week 8: **How Much Have We Raised?**

CAUSE Week 9: **Celebration**

CAUSE 2: JESUS Film

The JESUS Film exists to be used in preliterate societies. For people around the world who neither read, nor have even a basic knowledge of Jesus Christ, the JESUS Film brings knowledge of Christ's saving grace in their own language through visual means.

CAUSE Week 1: **Why JESUS Film Harvest Partners?**

CAUSE Week 2: **JFHP Weekly Prayer & Praise**

CAUSE Week 3: **JESUS Film Teams**

CAUSE Week 4: **JESUS Film Equipment**

CAUSE Week 5: **Testimonies of Grace**

CAUSE Week 6: **Our Commitment to Give**

CAUSE Week 7: **Showers of Blessing**

CAUSE Week 8: **Planning for Celebration**

CAUSE Week 9: **Celebration**

JUSTICE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

Restoring Biblical Harmony

“Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (Amos 5:24, NIV).

Some Christian, evangelical, and Nazarene leaders today have become concerned about an increasing interest in social justice and compassionate ministries. Persons concerned about an over-emphasis on justice or an over-emphasis on holiness will recall that, in the Bible, holiness and righteousness are closely related to justice. It is helpful to recall the close biblical relationship of justice to righteousness and holiness in heart and lifestyle.

In the Bible, the words for *justice* and *righteousness* have similar meanings. Old Testament Hebrew words for justice and righteousness are *tzedek* and *mishpat*. They have almost the same meaning and are often interchangeable.

New Testament Greek words for justice and righteousness are *dikaio*s and *dikaio*sune. The English *justice* is nearly identical to the Latin *justitia* and the Spanish *justicia*. In Latin and Spanish, the same word can be translated justice or righteousness.

How might these insights reassure, quiet, and deepen mutual appreciation among persons who take sides between justice, righteousness, and holiness? Some persons committed deeply to holiness are threatened by others concerned about justice or compassion. Some persons concerned deeply about justice or compassion feel alienated from persons deeply committed to holiness. How can we restore harmony?

Justice is the quality, attribute, or characteristic of moral rightness, fairness, equity, and reasonableness. Justice is fidelity to purpose in relationships. Justice is connected closely with God's holy love and compassion. Opposite meanings (antonyms) are: inequity, wrong, and injustice.

Righteousness is the quality, attribute, or characteristic of being morally right and just. Righteousness is the underlying soul of justice. Synonyms: upright, just, straight, integrity. Antonyms: wrong, unethical, dishonest, dishonorable, and immoral.

Righteousness is right relationship with God and people. God's righteousness is the ethical dimension of His holiness, (always doing what is right and true) morally consistent with His own moral covenant. Righteousness is the moral foundation for justice and holiness in heart and life.

Some persons think of justice as something public, and often think of it as punishment that is morally right and fully deserved. When they say, "We want justice," they often mean, "We want our rights." They demand right and fair treatment from other persons, or they expect the legal system to remedy something wrong.

Other persons think of righteousness as a quality or characteristic of an individual. They tend to keep righteousness to private matters.

Justice and righteousness are equally public and private, communal and individual. Justice and righteousness are two similar responses to the same relationship, two similar perspectives of the same issue, and two similar sides of the same heart.

Biblical justice is characterized as:

- based on the theology of God's justice
- related to relational, covenant community issues
- partial to marginalized and lowly persons
- grounded in Old Testament covenant responsibilities
- motivated by Jesus' proclamation and mission in the New Testament, which is worked out in the ethical teachings of Acts and the Epistles
- inspired by Jesus' "upside-down kingdom" values
- drawn from biblical teachings, rather than based on perceived cultural needs, natural law, or philosophy
- never self-serving, condescending, patronizing, or manipulative

- most concerned with the value of persons and their places in the community
- an aspect of the human role as stewards of God's creation
- a safeguard against reducing the Bible to a manual of personal piety
- the heart of true religion with personal, active, practical care for persons who are poor, oppressed, widowed, orphaned, helpless, weak, outsiders, and marginalized

(Adapted from Ruth Ann Foster in *Christian Ethics Today*, Issue 24, October 1999.)

Again, in the Bible we observe a very close connection between justice and righteousness. In the Old Testament, approximately 55 of 145 verses with *just* or *justice* also include the word *righteous* or *righteousness*. Righteousness and holiness are closely related in the character of God and His work in the hearts and lives of men and women.

Biblical references which link justice and righteousness:

Genesis 18:19-25	Proverbs 21:15	Jeremiah 9:24
Deuteronomy 16:19-20	Proverbs 28:5-12	Jeremiah 12:1-2
Deuteronomy 24:12-22	Proverbs 29:7	Jeremiah 22:13
1 Kings 3:7-28	Ecclesiastes 5:8	Jeremiah 33:15
2 Chronicles 9:8	Isaiah 1:17	Ezekiel 45:9
Job 27:6-7	Isaiah 1:21	Daniel 4:37
Job 29:14	Isaiah 1:27	Hosea 2:19
Job 37:23	Isaiah 5:7	Amos 5:7
Psalms 7:6-8	Isaiah 5:16	Amos 5:24
Psalms 9:8-9	Isaiah 9:7	Amos 6:12
Psalms 11:7	Isaiah 10:1-2	Micah 6:8
Psalms 33:5	Isaiah 11:4	Habakkuk 1:4
Psalms 37:6	Isaiah 16:5	Zephaniah 3:5
Psalms 72:1	Isaiah 28:17	Malachi 3:3-5
Psalms 89:14, 97:2	Isaiah 32:1	Matthew 12:18-21
Psalms 98:9	Isaiah 32:16	Matthew 23:23
Psalms 103:6	Isaiah 33:5	Luke 18:8-9
Psalms 106:3	Isaiah 42:1-6	Acts 17:31
Psalms 11:5-6	Isaiah 51:4-5	Romans 3:25
Psalms 119:121	Isaiah 56:1	2 Corinthians 7:1-11
Psalms 140:12-13	Isaiah 58:6-8	Hebrews 11:33
Psalms 146:7-9	Isaiah 59:9	Revelation 19:11
Proverbs 8:20	Isaiah 59:14	
Proverbs 21:3	Isaiah 59:15-16	

Note: The text for each of these verses is printed in the *Living Mission* planner on pages 6–10.

LESSON 1: Clean Water

PURPOSE

1. To help people understand that unsafe drinking water is one of the world's biggest killers
2. To tell stories of how the Nazarene Global Mission is bringing Christ's love to world areas through the provision of safe drinking water
3. To educate people about what they can do to provide clean water to people in various locations around the globe

Preparation

Make copies of the handout if you choose to use it.

As you prepare to present this lesson, think about the water we drink. In some areas of the world, we take clean water for granted. We expect water from our faucet or the drinking fountain to be clean and safe. When it is not, we complain to the appropriate people until something is done about it. But what if clean water was replaced by dirty, unsafe water—and we couldn't do anything about it?

Presentation

As you distribute the **handout**, **instruct** the members of the group to put themselves in the following scenario (adapt the scenario and statistics to your own situation).

Imagine it's Monday morning, and you live in a place with clean running water. You roll over in bed, wake up, and immediately realize you've overslept. You consider skipping a shower, then remember the important clients who will be in the office today. You decide showering is a must.

Ask a volunteer to estimate the amount of water he or she uses during a rushed shower. Then direct attention to the handout and ask everyone to write down his or her estimations for other normal daily tasks. Ask a few volunteers to share their guesses, then tell them the actual numbers for these tasks (from the list below).

1. The average toilet uses **3** gallons of water for each flush.
2. A 10-minute shower uses **25** gallons of water.
3. An average bath takes **50** gallons of water.
4. Brushing teeth, face- and hand-washing, and shaving all average **1** gallon of water.
5. Washing dishes with a dishwasher uses an average **20** gallons per load. Washing dishes by hand uses about **5** gallons per load.
6. A washing machine uses **10** gallons for one load.
7. With these estimations, the average person uses between **100** and **175** gallons of water a day; this number does not include water usage for feeding and clothing.

Finally, **ask** volunteers to discuss how their lives would be different without access to clean water.

Mission Story: Haiti Earthquake

Read this story aloud to the group, or ask a member (or a few members) of the group to read it aloud.

On January 12, 2010, the ground in the island nation of Haiti shook with the violence of a magnitude 7.0 earthquake. That quake and the dozens of aftershocks left more than 200,000 people dead and more than one million homeless. Within minutes lives were changed in villages and cities as homes, businesses, hospitals, and thousands of other buildings were destroyed.

One result of the quake was the destruction of water wells in small villages throughout the country. In many villages these wells had been the only source of clean water; their destruction forced people to choose between purchasing food, paying for school for their children, or buying clean water.

This was the situation in the village of Bellanger, located north of Port-au-Prince. When the town well was destroyed in the earthquake, the people had to purchase clean water. Without much money, many people purchased only what water they needed to cook, drink, and eat, and used a nearby stream for bathing. Unfortunately, this stream was also used to water the cattle and was full of trash that washed into it after heavy rains. As a result, many children who used this stream to bathe became sick. It's no wonder that one in eight children in Haiti will not reach his or her fifth birthday.

However, the Church of the Nazarene had been working long before this earthquake to help with Haiti's already-existing water problems. The Haiti Water Project is a project of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) that helps provide clean water by digging new wells and building cisterns (artificial reservoirs such as underground tanks used for storing water). After the earthquake, the Haiti Water Project focused on villages like Bellanger that lost their water supplies. In Bellanger, NCM helped dig a new well that provided clean water for the village. No longer will the people there have to bathe their children in dirty streams or choose between buying food or clean water for their families.

The situation was similar in Pont Rouge, a coastal town near Port-au-Prince. The town suffered heavy damage in the earthquake; many of its citizens were living under tarps on the property of the local Nazarene church. The people needed water, but because the church was too close to salty water, digging a well was not a feasible solution. So, as the church rebuilt its building, funds from the Haiti Water Project helped build a cistern. The cistern allowed the church and its people to minister to the homeless families on its property and in the neighborhood.

Over and over, in villages and cities across the island nation, the Haiti Water Project provides wells and cisterns as a source of clean water for thousands of people. As the Church of the Nazarene works to provide Living Water to our neighbors, we are also providing clean water necessary for survival.

Clean Water Facts

Haiti is not the only area of the world collapsing under a water shortage.

Share the following facts with your group or ask members of the group to share these facts aloud:

- Women and children usually bear the burden of water collection, walking miles to the nearest source, which is usually unprotected and likely to make them sick.
- Nearly one billion people on our planet do not have access to clean or safe water. This is *one in eight people* who live in our world.
- Unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation cause 80 percent of diseases and kill more people every year than all forms of violence, including war.¹
- Every 20 seconds a child dies from a water-related disease.
- Each year 1.4 million children die as a result of diarrhea.²

Discuss:

- What do the Bible references below say about caring for others? **Read** the following verses aloud to your group or ask group members to read them. Then **talk** about what appropriate Christian responses to the issue of clean water might be. **Discuss** with your group if there is an implied mandate or call for Christians regarding this issue, even though these verses may not mention providing clean water explicitly.
 - **Psalm 41:1**—Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble.
 - **Psalm 82:3**—Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

- **Proverbs 19:17**—He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.
 - **Proverbs 21:13**—If a man shuts his ears to the cry of the poor, he too will cry out and not be answered.
 - **Acts 20:35**—In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”
 - **2 Corinthians 9:6**—Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.
- The facts about clean water represent a worldwide problem, but the statistics can be overwhelming. What can Christians who may live far away from those affected by unsafe water do about it?

What About the Nazarene Church?

The Church of the Nazarene is very involved in trying to help all people access clean and safe water. Here are some ways the Church is working:

1. **Haiti Water Project**—Nine out of ten people in Haiti do not have running water in their homes, and it isn't easy to find clean water—especially since the earthquake. The Haiti Water Project plans to change that by installing water wells, cisterns, and filters in communities, helping local churches to meet the needs—not only of their members, but also of the community around them. One well provides clean, safe water for approximately 2,000 people. By installing one well or other clean water source at 500 local churches in Haiti, we have the ability to change one million lives.
NCM Haiti is also currently partnering with Pure Water for the World to provide biosand filters at 120 Nazarene schools and implement a hygiene education program at those schools. The filters are being used to purify water through layers of sand that trap dirt and disease and allow the clean water through. This will provide clean water resources for an estimated 30,000 children and their families, as well as thousands more who live in those communities. It will also provide a way to teach children (who will then teach their families) about things like hand washing, which will add to the clean water effort of reducing disease. You can learn more about this project at <<http://www.haitiwaterproject.com>>.
2. **Africa Water Wells Project**—NCM is working throughout Africa to help provide clean, safe water to communities who currently do not have access to it. NCM is helping provide hand pump wells in villages across Africa, especially areas in which the Nazarene Church already has child development centers. To find out more about this project, go to <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1826>>.
3. **Liberia Latrine Project**—During Liberia's 14-year civil war, much of the country's infrastructure was destroyed. There is no piped running water; sewer drainage is nonexistent in many towns and is blocked in most parts of the capital, Monrovia. Because of the civil crisis, many people have moved from rural areas to dwell in the capital. Sanitation problems and hygienic hazards are high. There are many reported cases of diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid fever. Private or public toilet facilities are practically nonexistent.

With this project, NCM wants to improve the sanitation and thus the health condition of 500 families in Monrovia and Grand Gedeh by constructing 12 large community pit latrine facilities in 12 villages or communities, benefiting more than 25,000 people. To find out more about this project, go to <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1858>>.

Do Something that Matters. (Get Involved!)

Be Informed and Inform Others

Encourage groups in church (especially youth) to create a presentation—PowerPoint, video, or spoken—to point out how much they use/overuse water each day and to explain how water is needed desperately around the world.

Check out *Engage* (www.engagemagazine.com), the global mission magazine of the Church of the Nazarene, to learn more about what is going on around the world through Nazarenes who are living missionally for Christ. You can follow them on Twitter or Facebook or sign up to receive e-mail updates. Being aware of what is happening is a great way to assess the needs of the world and to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading as to how you can help.

Pray

During your time together as a group, focus on at least one prayer point.

- Pray that global Christians will increase their awareness of this deadly issue. Pray that the hearts of Christians who aren't affected by unsafe water will be moved, feeling a sense of urgency to provide clean water for the rest of the world.
- Pray for the pastors and church leaders who work to provide clean water for their communities.
- Pray for those affected by unsafe water. Focus your prayers on specific nations or regions of the world.
- Pray for the Haiti Water Project, that donors will give the necessary funds and that the lives of people will be transformed through compassion by knowing Jesus Christ personally and by becoming part of a Nazarene church.
- Pray for the Africa Water Wells Project.

Donate

You can review the projects at <http://www.ncm.org/projects/> to find clean water efforts to which you can contribute. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

References

1. Charity: Water, "Why Water?" Charity: Water, <http://www.charitywater.org/whywater> (accessed September 14, 2010).
2. Water.org, "Water Facts," <http://water.org/learnabout-the-water-crisis/facts/> (accessed September 1, 2010).

Information Sheet

Clean Water

While some countries have clean running water and people expect to use more than they need, in some places around the world, people have to stand in line for several hours to get water.¹

LACK OF WATER AFFECTS:

- The general health and well-being of those who lack water.
- The education of children in some world areas. Instead of going to school, children spend time gathering water for their families.
- The spread of disease from using dirty water.

WHAT IS BEING DONE

- Clean water wells that run on solar power are virtually self-sustaining.
- Aqueducts are being built and roads paved so that water will not gather in puddles and become a breeding ground for disease.
- Biosand filters are being used to purify water through layers of sand that trap dirt and disease and allow the clean water through.

HOW WE CAN HELP

- Pray for the efforts of those around the world who are committed to bringing clean water to every person.
- Donate to the Haiti Water Project, Africa Water Wells Project, Liberia Latrine Project, or other clean water projects from the NCM Web site. Click on <http://www.ncm.org/projects/> and enter "water" in the search window to research additional Nazarene clean water efforts to which you can contribute.
- Raise awareness and interest in eliminating the use of dirty water around the world and the problems it causes.

Reference

1. American Water Works Association, "Water Use Statistics," <http://www.drinktap.org/consumerdnn/Home/WaterInformation/Conservation/WaterUseStatistics/tabid/85/Default.aspx> (accessed December 15, 2010).

LESSON 2: Mission to Women

PURPOSE

1. To explain why mission efforts specific to women are necessary
2. To learn how Nazarene Global Mission is ministering among women

Preparation

Keep your audience in mind as you prepare this lesson. If young children are usually present during the time you plan to present this lesson, talk to your pastor or let parents know that the material may not be suitable for kids.

As you prepare this lesson, consider how the rights, protections, and laws regarding women have changed in your country. In many areas of the world, women have no rights compared to those of other women globally. They are forced to marry too young, are not allowed or cannot afford an education, and cannot apply for loans that would enable them to start small businesses for themselves or to finance school to create better lives for themselves and their children.

Although their circumstances are always unique, far too many women around the world are trapped.

If you choose to use the lesson handout, make copies of the information sheet found at the end of this lesson to distribute to each person.

Presentation

Present the following scenario to your group.

Imagine you're a single mother. You have no family nearby. No friends. Little to no education. Where might you go for help to provide for your child?

Allow the group to give their thoughts.

Now imagine you live in a country with no government aid programs, no churches to help you. To what options might you turn?

Allow the group to give their thoughts on the second part of the scenario.

If you are using this lesson's **handout**, **distribute** copies to the members of the group.

Discuss

- What freedoms do some women take for granted that women in other areas of the world do not experience?
- Do you believe that making sure girls are educated and safe can impact an entire culture? Why or why not?

Mission Story: Vivian Meets Jesus

Read this story aloud to the group, or ask a member (or a few members) of the group to read it aloud.

The first time I met Jesus I was working. This is odd because my job as a prostitute didn't exactly provide ample opportunity to seek religion, and honestly, it wasn't very high on my list of priorities. I had a son to provide for, and I was doing my best to do so.

One evening as the sun set, I went to work. As I walked through one of three red light districts in Puerto Maldonado, Peru, the shadows grew longer as darkness descended. The only light came from red light bulbs hanging above the establishments where my coworkers and I made our money.

I met two men at one of the bars where I regularly began my work. Right away I could tell these men did not fit into the surroundings of dark and noisy bars lit only by neon lights. There is never a shortage of men walking through the bar with other prostitutes on their way to spending some time in the way I was used to spending my work hours, but these men were different.

They asked if we could sit and enjoy a soda together while we talked. So I sat down with them, and they began asking questions. Immediately, I felt defensive. *Who were these men, and why were they so curious about what I did to support my son?* At first they just asked questions about my background: where was I from, was I married, how old was I, did I have any kids. I tried to give them as little information about me as possible.

Then their questions really started to anger me. They began asking how I became a prostitute and if I had ever tried to do anything else. I felt defensive before, but my discomfort intensified as they began to question what I thought was my only option to provide for my child. *Did they think I enjoyed my job? How else was I supposed to take care of my son?*

Then one of the men asked me if I believed in God. I was shocked; no customer had ever been concerned about that. I took a moment to gather myself then answered, "Yes, I believe in God. But He's not going to come down here and pay my debts to the world. He is not going to provide food for my son and put clothes on his back. That's *my* job."

We talked a while longer. Before their time was up, they asked if they could pray with me. I said that was fine. After all, they'd paid for the time. I was surprised when each of them reached across the table and took one of my hands. They also held hands. One of the men prayed first and then the other. They prayed for my son and me. They prayed for my coworkers. They prayed for my clients. These men poured their hearts out to God for 20 minutes. During the prayer something changed in my heart. I could feel my walls starting to come down.

When the men were done praying, one of them asked, "How do you feel?"

"I've made a decision," I said. "I want something different from this. I need to get out of this life, and I think that the only way out is through your Jesus."

I don't think the men could have been more surprised. But they prayed with me again. And this time I asked Jesus to save me from my sins and provide a way out of my circumstances.

Over the next few months one of the men, Pastor Freddy, introduced me to his wife, and together they disciples me and welcomed me into their ministry. Together we dreamed of planting 12 churches in Puerto Maldonado, my city of 40,000 people, where there are an estimated 300 prostitutes. We also dreamed of starting a home called the "Hope House" to enable women like me to live for the Lord. Before I knew it, I was making visits to my old workplace with the two men who originally led me to the Lord. I knew what these women were going through. I knew from experience how they felt and what they were thinking. Now God is working through us to minister to the hearts of so many of His children who, just like I once did, feel trapped into the lifestyle they are living.¹

Discuss

- What do you think Vivian was expecting when these men approached her?
- How do you think she felt when she realized these men were different—that they wanted to help her rather than use her?

What the Bible Says

Jesus spent a good deal of His time on earth caring for the needs of hurting women—Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha, and the woman at the well, to name a few. Vivian has much in common with one of these women in particular—a woman named Lydia.

Read Acts 16:11-15 aloud with your group.

Discuss

Ask about the similarities between Vivian, the Peruvian woman from the story above, and Lydia. Below are some of the most obvious similarities, but feel free to discuss others your group identifies.

1. Both women were the caretakers of their families.
2. Both had some idea of God before they learned of Jesus' desire to have a personal relationship with them.
3. Just as Lydia did, Vivian has dedicated her life to telling others about God and serving His kingdom. In Acts, Paul tells us that Lydia and the members of her household were baptized. And as time went on, Lydia extended her hospitality and God's love to many more. Vivian's "household" goes beyond just her and her son. She seeks to minister to the estimated 300 disillusioned, hurting women in her hometown.

What About the Church of the Nazarene?

There is a long history of mission efforts to women in the Church of the Nazarene around the world. Here are some ways women are being served and reached for God through the Nazarene Church right now.

1. **Extreme Peru 2**—In June 2010, Extreme Peru, a four-year concentrated effort to plant churches and minister to prostitutes, concluded. It was as this project was in the planning stages years ago that Vivian met Pastor Freddy Zapata and missionary Brian Tibbs—and through them, Jesus—in a brothel bar. Extreme Peru 2 immediately picked up where Extreme Peru ended.
 - **30 church buildings**—The goal is to build 30 church buildings for some of the 120 churches that were planted over the last 4 years.
 - **40/40**—This project pairs one Peruvian member with one non-Peruvian member to work together planting churches. Extreme Peru 2 efforts are focused on planting 105 churches in the city of Lima.

You can find out more about Extreme Peru 2 at <http://www.extremenazarene.org/Peru2.aspx>.

2. **Health Services**—providing clinics and health screenings in places where these services are not offered.

Cervical cancer screenings are provided by Nazarenes in Papua New Guinea. This disease is preventable and also curable if caught in time, and detection takes only a simple screening test. The church teams up with a nonprofit organization in Australia called Meripath, which takes care of reading the slides after the screening test is completed. The church is working in Papua New Guinea to get better treatment for women who already have cancer.
3. **Vocational Training**—In many places, vocational training is provided for women escaping lives of prostitution, abuse, sex trafficking, and poverty.

Listed below are some of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' vocational training centers. For information on how to donate to these centers, follow the links provided.

 - **Hope House in Peru**—Pastor Freddy Zapata and a team of volunteers are dedicated to helping women who choose to leave a life of prostitution to find other ways of supporting themselves and their families.
 - **South Asia**—Vocational training in the form of tailoring and handicrafts, typewriting and computer skills, carpentry, homestead gardening, and other locally relevant and marketable skills. The goal of these centers is to help the poor become financially self-sufficient after a period of support and training. You can find out more about this project at <http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1479>.
4. **Radio Broadcasts**—World Mission Broadcast is working in Papua New Guinea through a radio program called *Cry of Women*. Pastor Daniel Ekka works with this program, which is directed toward women struggling with issues of violence, polygamy, rape, abortions, and prostitution. The program's goal is to support women through the struggles they face and continually put the peace of Jesus Christ before them.

5. **Magdalena Film**— *Magdalena: Through Her Eyes* shows the life of Jesus from Mary Magdalene's perspective, showing women that Jesus came to save them—not just men. The film was created by Campus Crusade for Christ as an alternative to the JESUS Film. Nazarene groups are using it around the world to reach women in areas in which gender equality is not the norm.

Do Something that Matters. (Get involved!)

Be Informed

Check out *Engage* (www.engagemagazine.com), the global mission magazine of the Church of the Nazarene, to learn more about what is going on around the world through Nazarenes who are living missionally for Christ. You can follow them on Twitter or Facebook or sign up to receive e-mail updates. Being aware of what is happening is a great way to assess the needs of the world and to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading as to how you can help.

Pray

During your time together, focus as a group on at least one prayer.

- Pray for Vivian and for Pastor Freddy Zapata as they work to increase the number of Nazarene churches in Peru and help women who are seeking a way out of prostitution.
- Pray for women who are working as prostitutes around the world. Pray that God will reach them, that their hearts will be softened toward Him and that they will find true freedom in Him.
- Pray for Pastor Daniel Ekka and the work of World Mission Broadcast through the radio program *Cry of Women* in Papua New Guinea and other endeavors to reach women throughout the world.
- Pray for the support of vocational training centers around the world where women can find the assistance necessary to learn new skills and discover ways to financially support themselves. Pray that these centers are able to provide continued life-long learning to individuals who would not otherwise receive it.
- Pray for those who can benefit from the vocational training centers. Pray that God will provide a path for them to find help at the centers and to prepare their hearts for choosing to receive the help.
- Pray for the men and women around the world who are dedicated to ministering to women. Pray that God will sustain them and encourage them, that they will be close to God and seek His wisdom in their ministry.

Donate

You can review the projects at <http://www.ncm.org/projects/> to find ministries to women to which you can contribute. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

Volunteer

1. Find a local homeless shelter and spend some time volunteering there. Begin to form relationships with women who need a friend.
2. Contact a school or after-school program in your community. Make yourself available for tutoring or mentoring.
3. Go on a long- or short-term mission trip, such as Extreme Peru 2.
 - Long term: <http://www.extremenazarene.org/Positions.aspx?ProjectId=11>
 - Short term: <http://www.extremenazarene.org/ShortTermOverview.aspx?ProjectId=11>

Information Sheet

Mission to Women

WHY WOMEN?

Jesus spent a good deal of His time on earth caring for the needs of hurting women—Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha, and the woman at the well, to name a few.

In many parts of the world, women have no rights compared to other women globally. They are forced to marry too young, are not allowed or cannot afford an education, and cannot apply for loans that would enable them to start small businesses for themselves or to finance school to create better lives for themselves and their children.

Although the circumstances are always unique, far too many women around the world are trapped.

DONATE

Review the projects at <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/>> to find ministries to women to which you can contribute. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

GET INVOLVED

- Find a local homeless shelter and spend some time volunteering there. Begin to form relationships with women who need a friend.
- Contact a school or after-school program in your community. Make yourself available for tutoring or mentoring.

PRAY

- Pray for women who are working as prostitutes around the world. Pray that God will reach them, that their hearts will be softened toward Him and that they will find true freedom in Him.
- Pray for the support of vocational training centers around the world where women can find the assistance necessary to learn new skills and discover ways to financially support themselves.
- Pray for those who will benefit from the vocational training centers and prepare their hearts for choosing to receive the help.
- Pray for the men and women around the world who are dedicated to ministering to women.

Reference

1. Pottenger, Gina G. "Extreme Nazarene Ministries: Vivian's Story." *Engage*, May 21, 2009
<[http://engagemagazine.com/Magazine-Content/Podcasts/May-2009/Extreme-Nazarene-Ministries--Vivian-s-story-\(1\).aspx](http://engagemagazine.com/Magazine-Content/Podcasts/May-2009/Extreme-Nazarene-Ministries--Vivian-s-story-(1).aspx)>
(accessed August 28, 2010).

LESSON 3: Global Melting Pot

PURPOSE

1. To help people understand that mission—ministry to those in another culture—is a specialized skill requiring not only language school, but also special education in the values, behaviors, and traditions of other cultures
2. To discuss xenophobia and to engage people with stories of how xenophobia affects mission and what processes are necessary to combat this problem
3. To understand that this is not simply an issue for those from the West; there are many examples of Nazarene missionaries from other parts of the world who must also confront this issue

Preparation

Keep your audience in mind as you prepare the lesson. If children are usually present during the time you plan to present this lesson, talk to your pastor or let parents know that the material may not be suitable for kids.

In case you or members of your group aren't familiar with the term *xenophobia* (zee-nuh-FOH-bee-uh), a short description follows to help you present and discuss the topic.

Xenophobia is the fear of foreigners and strangers. We can fear strangers for a variety of reasons. These include thinking we could lose our identity as a group because of their presence, thinking we might compromise our social customs because of theirs, and thinking we might become displaced if we give place to others unlike ourselves. Xenophobia can have an excess of results. It can bring about the exaltation of one social group, often at the cost of humiliating another. It can bring about the mass expulsion of immigrants, including grave mistreatment of the same. It can bring about hostile, violent, and even deadly interactions between social groups, the least of which is mere neglect and the worst of which is genocide.

Xenophobia is a serious concern in mission work around the world. Most of us can identify with experiencing fears related to strangers and foreigners at various times in our lives, and missionaries are no exception to the rule. In addition to dealing with our own fears, the most pressing issues in missions related to this important topic are mediating between groups that fear each other and interacting with groups that harbor fears against the Gospel and the Church. This is a concern not only for missionaries leaving the West to perform mission work abroad, but also for missionaries in countries around the world who are called to go to places outside their countries of origin. This is even a concern for missionaries and churches within their own countries. Cultures and subcultures within countries and communities sometimes provide challenges in ministry that include addressing and working through fears of those from other social groups.

Presentation

Ask volunteers to tell about times in their lives when they felt like an outsider. **Ask** them to articulate how they felt in that situation and how they dealt with it and worked through their feelings. **Ask** who or what made them feel welcome, at home, and more a part of the group.

Mission Story: Persecution in India!

Read this story aloud to the group, or ask a member (or a few members) of the group to read it aloud.

While Nazarenes in the state of Manipur, India, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the Gospel to their community, 5 to 10 community members entered the North East India District Center, poured gasoline on the furniture and literature in the office, and set the building on fire.

Thankfully, no one was injured in the attack, but approximately \$8,500 worth of JESUS Film equipment, as well as other equipment, was destroyed. However, because district leaders had received previous threats of violence from the group responsible for the attack, important documents had already been removed from the building.

According to local custom, the district had to seek redress from the community leaders before a police report could be filed. The community leaders agreed to make the attackers repay the district for its losses and to restrain them from future violence.

The attack followed waves of persecution against Christians in that region of India during 2009. In spite of each setback, Nazarenes have continued showing Christ's love to neighbors, and the church has grown. Other denominations have also gathered in support, as well as community leaders, who called the attack shameful.¹

Discuss

- We can all think of times in our lives when we've been afraid of people or groups different from us and the groups with which we identify. Let's put ourselves, for a few moments, in the shoes of those who attacked the district center in India. What kinds of fear might they—and others in similar situations—be experiencing that would bring them to engage in such acts of violence and destruction?
- The testimony of Nazarenes there is that despite the attack, the church has grown. How can churches help to quell fears and build bridges to those who feel threatened by their presence?

What the Bible Says

The biblical narrative is that of a people on the move: the Israelites in the Old Testament and the Church—the new Israel—in the New Testament. Consider the Exodus story. When God brings His people out of Egypt, He guides them on a journey across the desert, through the wilderness, and—only after many years—opens the way for them to settle in the Promised Land, the land of their forefathers and foremothers. Thus, from the very beginning, He commands them, “Do not mistreat an alien or oppress a foreigner, for you were aliens and foreigners in Egypt” (Exodus 22:21). And again He says, “Do not oppress an alien; you yourselves know how it feels to be aliens, because you were aliens in Egypt” (Exodus 23:9).

From there, the Bible is filled with verses and passages that help illuminate God's heart for the alien and the foreigner, the one and the ones who don't fit in and don't belong (see Deuteronomy 10:18-19). One of the psalmists praised the Lord in recognizing that He “watches over the alien” (Psalm 146:9). It's not surprising that the same God who has such a heart for the alien calls His own people not only to care for aliens and strangers but also to *be* aliens and strangers. The writer of 1 Peter calls Christians “aliens and strangers in the world” (1:1 and 2:11) and instructs them to “live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear” (1:17).

Moreover, Paul tells the church at Ephesus that because of God's great love, “you are no longer foreigners and aliens but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built together on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone” (Ephesians 2:19-20). God's love is great enough to take those outside the fellowship of His life and love and make them a real and integral part of it. As a living reflection of God, the Church is now called to do the same.

Discuss

- Given the story of God's people and the testimony of the Bible regarding God's heart for aliens and strangers, how do you think the Church should address situations in which our neighbors, even our enemies, experience injustice because they are foreigners in some way?
- In what concrete ways can we as Christians show love to these people?

What About the Church of the Nazarene?

Here are some ways that those affected by xenophobia are being served and reached for God through the Nazarene Church right now.

1. **Help for Persecuted Christians**—Christians in the Middle East face many dangers and difficulties. They risk being ostracized by their communities. They risk being physically attacked. They risk their homes and businesses being vandalized—sometimes completely destroyed. As the number of people coming to Christ increases, so does the need to protect and support these people in areas in which it's not safe or easy for them to practice their faith.

NCM is working to provide support and financial assistance, such as paying relocation costs and legal bills, for those in the Middle East who are persecuted because they have chosen to follow Christ. To learn more about this initiative, go to <http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1832>.

2. **Global Nazarene Publications**—The end goal of all Nazarene mission work is to eventually be able to leave a particular mission field because native inhabitants in each community can speak the Gospel to their own people. In some areas of the world, foreign missionaries are not only unwelcome but are also in danger of being harmed simply because they're different. In order to allow Nazarenes across the world to preach the Gospel to their own neighbors, Global Nazarene Publications (GNP) exists.

GNP develops or translates Nazarene literature so it can be used in the 156 world areas in which the Church of the Nazarene currently works. To learn more about GNP, go to <http://www.nazarene.org/gnp.aspx>.

Do Something that Matters. (Get involved!):

Be Informed

Check out *Engage* (www.engagemagazine.com), the global mission magazine of the Church of the Nazarene, to learn more about what is going on around the world through Nazarenes who are living missionally for Christ. You can follow them on Twitter or Facebook or sign up to receive e-mail updates. Being aware of what is happening is a great way to assess the needs of the world and to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading as to how you can help.

There are some interesting statistics on xenophobia you can review on the Internet at <http://filipspagnoli.wordpress.com/stats-on-human-rights/statistics-on-xenophobia-immigration-and-asylum/>.

Pray

During your time together as a group, focus on these prayer requests.

- Pray that missionaries will have the wisdom, insight, grace, and strength to face situations in which xenophobia is an issue.
- Pray that missionaries and churches will faithfully show people the love of God that overcomes all fear and that leads to reconciliation, healing, and restoration of fellowship.
- Pray that missionaries and other Christians won't fall prey to the very fears we've discussed; pray that instead they will allow the Spirit to help them see everyone as God intends them to be.
- Pray that God will keep our missionaries and churches safe from the violence, prejudice, and persecution that arise from xenophobic thought and behavior.
- Pray that we all will act justly toward the aliens, strangers, and foreigners among us; pray that all of us will experience the love of God that is the only hope for peace and unity in the world.

Donate

You can review the projects at <http://www.ncm.org/projects/> to find ministries to which you can contribute. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

Volunteer

1. Find a local school or other organization that offers your first language as a second language courses. Volunteer as a teacher or simply as a supportive member of that community. Begin to form relationships with people who can use a friend.
2. Get to know a family who is not originally from your home country. You can meet such people at school, church, or work. Invite them to dinner at your home. Be a support system to them as they navigate their journey in a new country and culture. Embody God's heart for the alien and stranger in your own life, neighborhood, community, and church.
3. Go on a long- or short-term trip to an area in which people have been highly affected by xenophobia.
4. Are there cultural groups that have immigrated to your area with whom you might plant a church? What would it take to start such a church?

Reference

1. Eurasia Region Editor, "District Offices in India Burned While Nazarenes Celebrate Arrival of Gospel." *Engage*, February 9, 2010 <<http://www.engagemagazine.com/Magazine-Content/Articles/February-2010/District-offices-in-India-burned-while-Nazarenes-c.aspx>> (accessed September 3, 2010.)

Information Sheet

Global Melting Pot

WHY ARE OUR DIFFERENCES AN ISSUE?

Mission—ministry to those in another culture—is a specialized skill requiring not only language school, but also special education in the values, behaviors, and traditions of other cultures. In our global melting pot, xenophobia—the fear of strangers and their culture—is a serious concern for those doing mission work in the Church of the Nazarene around the world.

The most pressing issues in missions related to this important topic are mediating between groups that fear each other and dealing with groups that harbor fears against the Gospel and the Church.

CHRISTIANS—A PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

The biblical narrative is a narrative of a people on the move: the Israelites in the Old Testament and the Church—the new Israel—in the New Testament. The Bible is filled with verses and passages that help illuminate God's heart for the alien and the foreigner, the one and the ones who don't fit in and don't belong. God's love is great enough to take those outside the fellowship of His life and love and make them a real and integral part of it. As a living reflection of God, the Church is now called to do the same.

BE INFORMED

There are some interesting statistics on xenophobia you can review on the Internet at:
<<http://filipsagnoli.wordpress.com/stats-on-human-rights/statistics-on-xenophobia-immigration-and-asylum/>>.

PRAY

- Pray that missionaries will have the wisdom, insight, grace, and strength to face with situations in which xenophobia is an issue.
- Pray that missionaries and churches will faithfully show people the love of God that overcomes all fear and that leads to reconciliation, healing, and restoration of fellowship.
- Pray that we all will act justly toward aliens, strangers, and foreigners among us.

DONATE

You can review the projects at <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/>> to find ministries to which you can contribute. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

VOLUNTEER

- Find a local school or other organization that offers your first language as a second language courses. Volunteer as a teacher or simply as a supportive member of that community. Begin to form relationships with people who can use a friend.
- Get to know a family who is not originally from your home country. You can meet such people at school, church, or work. Invite them to dinner at your home. Be a support system to them as they navigate their journey in a new country and culture. Embody God's heart for the alien and stranger in your own life, neighborhood, community, and church.

LESSON 4: Mission to the Disabled

PURPOSE

1. To help people understand that, because of the lack of government assistance to the disabled in most countries, having a physical handicap is often comparable to a slow death sentence due to the many problems that often accompany disabilities
2. To learn what Nazarene Global Mission is doing regarding care for the physically challenged around the world
3. To engage people with opportunities to assist Nazarene efforts in ministry to the disabled

Preparation

Keep your audience in mind as you prepare this lesson. If children are usually present during the time you plan to present this lesson, talk to your pastor or let parents know that the material may not be suitable for kids.

Look into ministries and organizations in your area that assist the disabled in order to provide contact information for those who would be interested in seeking volunteer opportunities.

Presentation

Ask these questions of your group:

- With which hand do you write?
- Imagine you are missing that hand or arm. How will you continue to do your current job?
- Imagine you can no longer do that job. How will you provide for yourself?
- Now imagine you live in a country that has no program of economic security or other government assistance. You are single and have no family to care for you. What are your options?
- Now imagine you cannot use your legs and cannot afford a wheelchair. How will you get around?

Mission Story: God's Hidden Treasures

Read this story aloud to the group, or ask a member (or a few members) of the group to read it aloud.

After Nazarene laypeople Duncan “Doc” and Charmayne Old retired, they believed God was calling them to serve in Tonga, a South Pacific island nation. Prior to moving to Tonga, Charmayne worked as a nurse in a convalescent center. She knew that God was calling her to serve the people of Tonga in the same way, so she and Doc began to seek out what she considered God’s “hidden treasures”—the children forgotten or hidden by society due to physical challenges.

When the Olds first arrived in Tonga in 1994, disabled children were commonly viewed as a punishment for the sins of the parents. But Charmayne and Doc worked hard to change the view society held of those who were forgotten or hidden. They followed lead after lead to find and encourage families who were struggling with the realities of caring for a disabled loved one.

In 2005, the Mango Tree Respite Center was dedicated and currently serves families across the country by caring for their loved ones with physical challenges. By the time Charmayne passed away in 2006, disabled people all over Tonga knew her name—and knew of Christ’s love, which she was able to show them throughout her time there.¹

What the Bible Says

Many times during Jesus’ life on earth, He healed the crippled and lame, thereby providing for their immediate physical needs. However, never once did He heal a person’s physical needs without also addressing his or her spiritual needs.

One of those stories is about a group of people caring for a friend who was paralyzed. This story is told in three of the four Gospels (Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-11, and Luke 5:17-26). In one version, an additional detail is given.

Ask three volunteers to read these three passages aloud; then compare the accounts, asking, “What did Luke add that was not in the story in Matthew or Mark?”

When we read this story we tend to focus on the faith of the man lowered through the roof on his mat or the interaction between Jesus and the Pharisees. We do not generally notice that the paralyzed man had something that was uncommon during Jesus’ time—people willing to help him.

As we spend time thinking about our roles as followers of Christ and serving the disabled, it is helpful to examine what we know about these men. They were obviously healthy enough to climb onto the roof and lift a disabled man onto the roof, then lower him through a hole in the roof without dropping him. The man was completely at their mercy.

We are not told how these men earned their living. Did they, like other men and women during this time in history, spend their days completing tasks that enabled them and their families to survive? Were they related to the disabled man—brothers, maybe? What connection did they have to this man that caused them to take care of him?

Discussion

- Why do you think Luke included this detail in his account while Matthew and Mark did not? What is the significance of this story?
- Whatever the men in Luke did for a living—whether they were family members or friends of the healed man—caring for him couldn’t have been easy in a time when there were no wheelchairs, government assistance programs, paved roads, or handicapped-accessible buildings. How can we be intentional in caring for those with physical disabilities?

What About the Church of the Nazarene?

1. **The Mango Tree**—We mentioned the Mango Tree Respite Center in the story about Charmayne and Doc Old. This facility in Tonga serves both the handicapped and their family members, providing services that include home visit care, rehabilitative therapy, computer classes, Braille courses, mobility aids, renovations to make homes handicapped-accessible, annual camps, and sponsorship programs for families. You can find out more about the Mango Tree and ways you can support this ministry at <http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1476>.
2. **Korea Nazarene University**—Korean law does not mandate that buildings be made handicapped-accessible, so many are not. However, Korea Nazarene University has voluntarily made its entire campus friendly to those with physical challenges. As a result, a disproportionate number of handicapped students now attend the university.
3. **Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Project**—As is all too common around the world, children with physical and mental disabilities in the Soviet Union were hidden to create an illusion of perfection. In what is now the Commonwealth of Independent States, individuals with disabilities were actually removed from within the city limits and placed in facilities with deplorable living conditions. Friends and family members had to travel quite a distance to visit them if they chose to do so. Through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM), the Church of the Nazarene now supports two ministries that are working with individuals with special needs in Ukraine and Russia. In these programs the church cares for children and adults with special needs, provides spiritual support to parents and family, and offers basic support to those needing it. You can learn more about this ministry at <http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1735>.

Do Something that Matters. (Get Involved!)

Be Informed

Engage <<http://www.engagemagazine.com>> is the global mission magazine of the Church of the Nazarene. By reading *Engage* you can learn more about what is going on around the world through Nazarenes who are living missionally for Christ. You can follow them on Twitter or Facebook or sign up to receive e-mail updates. Being aware of what is happening is a great way to assess the needs felt around the world and to be open to the Holy Spirit's leading as to how you can help.

Pray

During your time together as a group, focus on these prayers.

- Pray for physically challenged individuals around the world who do not have a support system of family and friends. Pray they will be seen and loved.
- Pray for the leadership at the Mango Tree Respite Center and for the people of Tonga. Pray that their eyes will continue to be opened to the value and beauty of all human life.
- Pray that, whenever and wherever possible, buildings and sidewalks will be made handicapped-accessible and that financial aid will be provided for those who need equipment, such as a wheelchairs, simply to survive.
- Pray for those in your own community, church, office, or city assisting people with physical challenges.
- Pray for the work Nazarenes are doing in CIS to help care for people with physical challenges. Pray they will continue to encourage and help the ministries already in place to assist those who were once hidden from society. Pray that the financial needs of these ministries will be met.
- Pray to determine ways in which your church can become involved in mission, locally or globally, to those with physical challenges. Then act.

Donate

Review the projects at <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/>> to find ministries to the disabled to which you can contribute. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

Volunteer

1. We sometimes forget that just getting out of bed and preparing for the day can be difficult tasks for some people. Brainstorm ways your group can bless, encourage, and assist those individuals or families whose lives are made more difficult because of physical handicaps.
2. Volunteer at a local organization that assists families and children with handicaps. Find out what they need to better function—even *thrive*.
3. Investigate whether or not there are churches in your area that have members with handicaps. Is there a way your church can help provide accessibility alternatives in the building? Is there a Habitat for Humanity project in your area with which you can help?
4. Research Work & Witness opportunities at <<http://www.workandwitness.org/projects>> and try to find a project that directly benefits those with physical disabilities. Consider taking one of these trips with your small group, youth group, or as a church.

Information Sheet

Mission to the Disabled

CARING FOR THE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

Many times during Jesus' time on earth, He healed the crippled and lame and provided for their immediate physical needs. However, never once did He heal a person's physical needs without also addressing his/her spiritual needs.

One of those stories is about a group of people caring for a friend who was paralyzed. This story is told in three of the four Gospels--Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-11, and Luke 5:17-26.

When we read the story, we tend to focus on the faith of the man lowered through the roof on his mat or on the interaction between Jesus and the Pharisees concerning the man's healing. We don't generally take notice that the paralyzed man in the story had something that wasn't exactly common during Jesus' time—people who were willing to help him.

DONATE

You can review the projects at <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/>> to find ministries to the disabled to which you can contribute. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

GET INVOLVED

- As a group, think of ways you can bless, encourage, and assist those individuals or families whose lives are made more difficult because of physical handicaps.
- Volunteer at a local organization that assists families and children with handicaps. Find out what they need to better function—even *thrive*.
- Research Work & Witness opportunities at <<http://www.workandwitness.org/projects>>. Consider taking one of these trips with your small group, youth group, or as a church.

PRAY

- Pray for physically challenged individuals around the world who do not have a support system of family and friends. Pray they will be seen and loved.
- Pray that countries around the world will work to protect those who are marginalized.
- Pray for those in your own community, church, office, or city that assist people with physical challenges.
- Pray to determine ways in which your church can become involved in mission work to those with physical challenges. Then act.

LESSON 5: Sanctity of Life

PURPOSE

1. To help people understand that all forms of violence threaten the sanctity of life wherever it occurs and that ministering to those who have been hurt not only fulfills Christ's command to care for the least of these, but also models God's love in Christian witness
2. To learn how issues of violence and the sanctity of life intersect with missions in the Church of the Nazarene, providing opportunity to show God's love and to discover how these issues present obstacles and danger to the mission work and the workers
3. To teach people how Nazarene missions intersects with the issues of violence and to encourage them to pray for the safety of our missionaries as well as support of global efforts to alleviate pain

Preparation

Keep your audience in mind as you prepare this lesson. If children are usually present during the time you plan to present this lesson, talk to your pastor or let parents know that the material may not be suitable for kids.

As you prepare this lesson, it is important to keep in mind that "sanctity of life" is a phrase evangelical Christianity has tended to associate almost exclusively with the issues of abortion, stem cell research, and euthanasia. However, the phrase speaks to other issues as well, including war, genocide, creation care (caring for God's creation), domestic violence, and capital punishment, to name just a few. To claim that life is sacred is to claim the miraculous, but, of course, life *is* sacred because all life is of God. There is no life apart from Him, the resurrected and living one.

Make copies if you choose to use the lesson handout.

Presentation

If you are using this lesson's handout, **distribute** a copy to each member of the group. **Ask** them to write down at least six topics associated with the phrase "sanctity of life." Encourage them to consider more than the most obvious answers. Then ask members of the group to discuss their responses to the handout's questions.

Mission Story: Sanctity of Life

Read this story aloud to the group, or ask a member (or a few members) of the group to read it aloud.

Even as a native in her country, life as a Christian was never easy for Maria and her family. But they ran a successful business, and family was nearby.

When her country went to war with another country, though, their lives changed. After her country's leader was removed from office, things became much worse for Maria and her family. "When the war broke out, even my neighbors wouldn't speak to us. They would say, 'You are Christians; the leader [of the country we are fighting] is a Christian. Why don't you talk to him? Why is he doing this to us?'"

Then, in 2003, Maria's husband was kidnapped. After four days and after paying \$4,000, Maria's family got him back—suffering from a broken nose and missing parts of several fingers and toes. Maria's husband wasn't the only assaulted Christian. Maria's brother-in-law, a 24-year-old agricultural engineer, was killed in a nearby city.

The family was finally able to leave their hometown in a taxi at a cost of \$200. The same trip now costs closer to \$1,000 and is far more difficult since the borders are closed. Maria and her family ended up in a low-rent Christian neighborhood in a nearby capital city. Her husband couldn't find steady work, so Maria took a job at a convent, hand-washing clothing for 500 people a day. Her shift began at 5 A.M., and she was paid in rice and sugar.

When their visas expired, the family avoided going out for fear of being caught. They couldn't enroll the children in school, and most of their money was going toward medical bills. They slept on the cold apartment floor, Maria developed arthritis, and her son had a persistent cough. Paying for food was difficult.

Maria's husband finally found work making tea and coffee, and she was eventually offered jobs cleaning homes for several people from the local Nazarene church. The Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) regional coordinator asked Maria if her children were in school. She admitted it had been two years since they had been formally educated; and before long, both were enrolled in the local Nazarene school. NCM also provided the children with School Pal-Paks, used winter clothes, Crisis Care Kits, and dental work.

"We don't have lots of things, but we are happy," says Maria. "I'm happy because we met Jesus here. We used to know about Jesus in our home country, but not in the same way as here. A week ago, my son said, 'Mommy, I have crayons, and I would like to give them to my friend because he doesn't have any.' So I'm happy about that. He feels with others. And he likes to help others. If somebody needs help from my son, I would like my son to help him."

It would hardly be surprising if the violence, injustice, and difficulties Maria and her family have faced caused them to feel bitter and guarded. But because of the ministry of the Nazarene Church and, more importantly, because of Christ's work in their lives and hearts, they have hope for the future.

Discussion

Maria's story is a reminder of those who have been displaced by the violence of war. How do the violence and death of war threaten our own conviction of the sanctity of life? How should missionaries and churches in war regions respond to the travesty of death?

What Does the Bible Say?

All life is sacred to God, because all life finds its being and purpose in His life. He holds all life sacred because He is the source of all life. A holy God gives source to holy life. A holy Creator creates holy creatures. And as the living God of all life, He constantly affirms, nourishes, and sustains it. "Like water spilled on the ground, which cannot be recovered, so we must die. But God does not take away life; instead he devises ways so that a banished person may not remain estranged from him" (2 Samuel 14:14).

Indeed, the testimony of Scripture and the history of the Church is that as children of God and followers of his Son, we are called to care compassionately for all of life, especially life that is vulnerable. We are called to see and treat everyone as a neighbor, to see and treat everyone as a sister or brother in Christ or a future sister or brother in Christ. God's people are called to love Him as they are loved by Him and to love one another (see Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Leviticus 19:18; and Mark 12:28-34). As Moses spoke to the entire assembly of Israel, he was commanded by God to tell them not to seek revenge or bear a grudge, but rather to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Leviticus 19:18).

God's rescue of those who are vulnerable is a prominent theme throughout the biblical narrative. One of the psalmists, thought to be David, prayed to the Lord, "You hear, O LORD, the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, defending the fatherless and the oppressed, in order that humanity, which is of this earth, may terrify no more" (Psalm 10:17-18). Those who worship God, as they become holy as He is holy and loving as He is loving, will rescue and defend the vulnerable as He does and desires them to do. God's righteousness and justice are shown to the world in His own people as they worship and work for Him.

At the end of Proverbs, King Lemuel recites a saying taught to him by his mother. At the heart of the saying is this admonition: "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy" (Proverbs 31:8-9). There are many examples of these themes continuing into the New Testament, one of the most recognized being the parable of the Good Samaritan recorded in Luke 10. James, the brother of Jesus, says in his letter to Christians scattered around the world: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world" (James 1:27).

Discussion

- The story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—the Gospel of hope—teaches us that the violence of the world, and the world's contempt for the sanctity of life, isn't as deep as the love of God and God's power to redeem and renew life into His image. What do the crucifixion and resurrection teach us about what to expect when we participate in His mission in the world? What do the crucifixion and resurrection teach us about what God means when He teaches us in Micah "to act justly"?
- How can we demonstrate what we believe about the sanctity of life and encourage others to see life as God sees it?

What About the Church of the Nazarene?

Arguably, all missions work done by the Church could be linked to the sanctity of life, but here are just a few of the specific ways the Church of the Nazarene is working right now to improve the lives of brothers and sisters in Christ globally, showing them the love of God in the process.

1. **AIDS Orphans and Caregivers Support**—The AIDS pandemic in Africa has claimed millions of lives, orphaning a generation of children. NCM's Orphans and Vulnerable Children initiative provides care for many of these orphans by placing them in loving homes where they'll have the opportunity to prosper.
Livestock is provided to give milk, eggs, and meat to the caregiving family. The livestock's first offspring is given to a needy neighbor; the rest of the offspring generates income for the caregiver and the orphaned child who has been placed in the home. Farming supplies, including seedlings and tools, are provided to plant vegetable gardens that yield food and nutrition in the form of corn, groundnuts, sweet potatoes, and vegetables. Any surplus generates additional income to take care of the children.
The community's churches also help with basic education for the children who would otherwise not have the opportunity to learn basic life skills due to the economic situation in which they find themselves. To learn more about this project, go to <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1571>>.
2. **CIS Prison Ministry Project**—The prison system in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS—the former Soviet Union) is filled with people who have been lingering in the system without hope for years. Prisoners lack basic human needs, such as adequate clothing and toiletries.
Several of the men and women who have been going through the Church of the Nazarene's rehabilitation programs in the CIS are ex-convicts who have been called to return to the jails to preach the Good News to current prisoners.
Through the CIS Prison Ministry Project, NCM works to provide prisoners with Bibles, as well as personal items such as clothing and toiletries that are needed to maintain their health. You can find out more about this project at <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1739>>.
3. **AIDS Education & Prevention Initiatives**—There are still frightening myths and beliefs in the minds of people throughout Africa regarding HIV and AIDS. NCM is already active in the training of community and church leaders, as well as young people and the population in general. The ministry now plans to launch further workshops, empowering key congregations and local leaders to train others to have a tangible impact in the prevention and fight against this crippling, family-destroying, and often deadly pandemic.
NCM's goal is to produce AIDS prevention and information materials in at least five languages to be distributed among children and youth in various African countries. To learn more about these initiatives, go to <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1508>>.

Do something that matters. (Get Involved!)

Be Informed

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Pray

During your time together as a group, focus on these prayer requests.

- Pray that God will keep His work and workers around the world safe.
- Pray that God's workers around the world will courageously share the Good News in the midst of dangerous circumstances.
- Pray that missionaries and churches around the world will show God's great love and concern for all life.
- Pray that missionaries and churches will be kept safe from all violence and will serve as ministers of reconciliation and healing in the midst of a world torn apart by the madness of violence and war.
- Pray that missionaries and churches will endure danger and persecution with faith, hope, and love, trusting in God and reaching out to others no matter what the cost.
- Pray that missionaries and churches will lovingly work to relieve the pain of those around them that has been caused by forces of destruction in their communities; pray that they will faithfully work to bring such forces to an end by the Spirit's power.
- Pray that all of us will be found faithful on the last day to have served "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

Donate

You can review the projects at <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/>> to find ministries to which you can contribute. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

Volunteer

1. The phrase "sanctity of life" means different things to different people. Decide what this phrase means to you, then choose a place to live out what you believe. Possibilities might be to form friendships with nursing home residents, volunteer with a suicide prevention or domestic violence hotline, or consider becoming a foster parent.
2. Look for ways to serve abroad through Work & Witness. Embrace those times as opportunities to face danger and persecution with love and hope, believing in God's power to bring life from death, joy from despair, and mercy from judgment.
3. Participate in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Find out more at <<http://www.idop.org/>>.

Information Sheet

Sanctity of Life

WHAT IS SANCTITY OF LIFE?

Sanctity of life is a phrase that many associate with the issues of abortion, stem cell research, and euthanasia. However, the phrase speaks to other issues as well, including war, genocide, creation care (caring for God's creation), domestic violence, and capital punishment, to name just a few. To claim that life is sacred is to claim the miraculous, but of course, life *is* sacred because all life is of God. There is no life apart from Him.

BE INFORMED

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VOLUNTEER

- Decide what the phrase *sanctity of life* means to you, then choose a place to live out what you believe: form friendships with nursing home residents, volunteer with a suicide prevention or domestic violence hotline, consider becoming a foster parent.
- Look for ways to serve abroad through Work & Witness teams. Embrace those times as opportunities to face danger and persecution with love and hope, believing in God's power to bring life from death, joy from despair, and mercy from judgment.
- Participate in the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. Find out more at <<http://www.idop.org/>>.

PRAY

- Pray that missionaries and churches around the world will show God's great love and concern for all life.
- Pray for missionaries and churches to be kept safe from all violence and to serve as ministers of reconciliation and healing in the midst of a world torn apart by the madness of violence and war.
- Pray that missionaries and churches will lovingly relieve the pain of those around them caused by forces of destruction in their communities; pray that they will faithfully work to bring such forces to an end by the Spirit's power.
- Pray that all of us will be found faithful on the last day to have served "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40).

LESSON 6: Child Labor

PURPOSE

1. To help people understand that millions of children are being forced to work to maintain subsistence living and that this condition creates physical and developmental hazards
2. To learn what Global Mission and Nazarene Missions International are doing about child labor around the globe
3. To help people learn how Nazarene mission work affects the problem of child labor

Preparation

Keep your audience in mind as you prepare this lesson. If children are usually present during the time you plan to present this lesson, talk to your pastor or let parents know that the material may not be suitable for kids.

Child labor or child trafficking is a tragic issue that many people choose to ignore. Sometimes, child labor happens in full view of society, especially in cultures where it seems necessary for children to work in order for the family to survive. In the extreme, child trafficking can also include literal slavery or sex trafficking of children.

As you prepare this lesson, keep in mind that this is not an issue that can be solved with fundraisers or fun events. To generate real change, people must be aware of the issue and its serious implications. Child labor and trafficking have an impact beyond the negative effects they have on the children involved. Families and communities are harmed as well.

Make copies if you choose to use the lesson handout.

Approach this lesson with **prayer**. **Engage** in serious research online and in libraries to learn as much as you can about child labor. Look for an interesting way to approach this subject in your lesson.

Presentation

Ask your group this question: **What is needed for a child to grow up happy, healthy, and safe?** Collect items that represent these elements. For example, a toy could represent play, a book represents education, and a food item represents health.

If you have elementary school teachers in your congregation, talk to them before the lesson to learn more about how school systems concretely help underprivileged children.

Distribute the lesson handout and go through it with your group. Ask group members to rank items on the list from most to least important, with 1 being the most important item needed for a family to function properly and 11 being the least important. Then ask them to imagine they could achieve all these things only if their entire family works—including all children. Ask them how their hopes and dreams for their family might change or to whom they might turn for help.

Mission Story: Responding With Love

Explain to the group that you will read the following story aloud and will pause between sections, at which time the group will recite the verses listed.

Gafur was a happy little boy. He lived in a village in the mountains east of Mumbai, India. His village was small and poor by many standards. The villagers grew most of their own food and made various items to sell in the city in order to make a little money.

Recite together Proverbs 29:7—*“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.”*

Although his family was poor, Gafur didn't know it. He had his regular chores, such as collecting water from the town well, but he also enjoyed playing as any eight-year-old would. He enjoyed exploring the fields around his village and playing with his best friends.

Recite together Proverbs 17:6—*“Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.”*

One day, a stranger came to Gafur's village. He seemed very interested in the people of the village and even bought a dress from Gafur's mother and a skinny cow from his neighbor. The cow wasn't worth much so the villagers weren't sure if the stranger was naïve or just nice. Everyone liked him. After a few days, the stranger gathered the parents and told them of an opportunity for their children that existed in the city. He explained that he could get the children good jobs that would pay them a wage and give them good training and experience. The adults didn't like the idea of their children going to the city without their parents, but they saw it as an opportunity for their children to get ahead in life, so many of the parents agreed. Soon, many boys and girls were loaded into an old school bus for the trip into the city.

Recite together Mark 9:37—*“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”*

The man told the parents they would hear from their children regularly and gave them an address and phone number if they needed to contact them. After a few weeks the parents hadn't heard anything from their children, and the parents tried to call the number. No one answered. Finally, Gafur's father and several other men traveled to the city to find out what was going on. The men found the address, only to discover it was an empty lot. They questioned neighbors, but no one had heard of the man or seen the children. The fathers returned home without the children from the village—and were scared for them.

Recite together Psalm 72:4—*“He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor.”*

The parents had a right to be scared. Gafur and his friends were taken to a carpet factory in the city. Once there, they were shown a small room with cots that would be their new home. It was small, dirty, hot, and had no windows. The children were put to work in the carpet factory immediately. They were expected to work at least 12 hours a day and received few breaks. The children had fallen into the dark world of child trafficking.¹

Recite together Isaiah 1:17—*“Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless...”*

Recite together Isaiah 56:1—*“Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.”*

Facts About Child Labor

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 73 million children between the ages of 10 and 14 are employed in economic activities all over the world. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that if you broaden the range to include ages 5 to 14, the figure increases to 158 million working children worldwide.

Here are some additional facts about child labor and trafficking:

- Millions of children are engaged in hazardous situations or conditions, such as working in mines, working with chemicals and pesticides in agriculture, or working with dangerous machinery.

- In Sub-Saharan Africa about one in three children is engaged in child labor, representing 69 million children. In South Asia, another 44 million are engaged in child labor.
- Children living in the poorest households and in rural areas are most likely to be engaged in child labor. Those burdened with household chores are overwhelmingly girls. Millions of girls who work as domestic servants are especially vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.²

Labor often interferes with children's education. Often, children must work so the whole family can survive. Going to school would mean no money for food or no water to drink, since children and women are generally the family members who walk long distances to collect water. Keys to preventing child labor include ensuring that all children go to school and receive quality educations. However, it is difficult to implement this when families don't survive long enough for these solutions to be effective and beneficial.

Child labor or trafficking is a serious issue facing millions of children around the world. It affects the health and education of children and, eventually, affects the entire nation.

Discussion

- The Bible commands us to care for children and those who live in poverty. After hearing Gafur's story and the accompanying Scripture verses, how should Christians respond to the issue of child labor?
- It seems easy for some people to remove themselves from the issue of child labor. Although it happens in their nation, they must search to find it. Some nations have laws in place that protect children—laws preventing child labor *and* requiring children to go to school. How can we keep this issue at the forefront of our minds? How can we effect change from within our own communities?

What About the Nazarene Church?

What the Church of the Nazarene is accomplishing around the world to improve the lives of children in our care is astounding. In many world areas, churches sponsor child development centers and other programs to give children opportunities for learning, socialization, and fun. Following are a few ways the Nazarene Church is working for children around the world, thereby lowering the likelihood that children will have to work too young, thus keeping them safe from predators. This work is changing the futures of the children, their families, and their communities.

1. **Child Sponsorship**—Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' (NCM) child sponsorships advocate for the children and families who find themselves destitute. NCM partners with existing Nazarene congregations and ministries around the world to ensure that these children are cared for, provided with educational, health, and spiritual opportunities they would not otherwise have. Sponsors give monthly donations to improve the life of the child they choose to sponsor, and the sponsors and children can exchange letters. The funds received, as well as the ministry fulfilled by the Nazarene Church in the areas where the children live, work together to ensure that the children and their families prosper. You can find out more about child sponsorship at <http://cs.ncm.org/>.
2. **Child Development**—Closely connected to child sponsorships, NCM's child development plan exists to provide educational and spiritual growth opportunities for children around the world. Funds are used to provide food, education, health care and disease prevention, advocacy, and discipleship activities.
3. **Madagascar Street Kids Center**—This NCM center exists to provide a safe environment for street children to be fed, clothed, educated, and nurtured into a relationship with Jesus Christ. The center provides hot meals every day for 340 children. Clothing is distributed twice a year to participating children. The center offers education to bring children to an educational level that will enable them to enter school. Dedicated Christian workers provide Bible lessons, chapel services, and relational evangelism to introduce the children and their families to Christ. The center also provides vocational

training in woodwork, sewing, and computer operation for those who are too old to enter the educational system. To learn more, go to <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/acm1267>>.

Do Something that Matters. (Get involved!)

Be Informed

Many churches in the United States are responding by raising awareness of the issue of child labor. The more we know and the more people who know, the greater the possibility exists that nations and governments will do something about child trafficking.

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Pray

During your time together as a group, focus in on these prayers.

- Pray for increased awareness in your community and your nation about the issue of child trafficking.
- Pray for children around the world who must work so their families can live. Pray that the global Church will continue to grow, providing these families with education and financial opportunities to improve the lives of these children and their families.
- Pray for families in desperate financial situations who are tempted to give up their children for what they think are better lives. Pray that God would help them to know that these "opportunities" are really traps for their children.
- Pray for those who force children to work against their will—both in the labor and sex industries. Pray that God will change their hearts and free the children they have enslaved.
- Pray for law enforcement officials and other government officials who must face this issue.
- Pray for pastors and mission leaders around the world who are trying to provide safe and positive environments for children.

Donate

You can review the projects at <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/>> to find ministries for children to which you can contribute. Or go to <<http://www.ncm.org/>> and select "Child Development" on the "Give" tab to find children you or your church can support. Work together as a church, small group, or family to raise money to support one of these ministries.

Volunteer

1. Go on a short- or long-term mission trip that focuses on improving the lives and opportunities of children. For instance, sign up as a church or group to go on a Work & Witness trip to build a child development center. You can research ministry opportunities at <<http://www.workandwitness.org/projects>>.
2. One of the best ways to address the issue of child trafficking and child labor is to raise awareness. As is the case with many who live in need, people don't care because they don't know. Christians can make an impact by letting friends and neighbors know of the seriousness of this issue. But how do we address it with others?

Work through your local church to sponsor events and seminars that provide information and raise awareness. Invite law enforcement officials in your area who have experience with this problem to make a presentation to your group. Look for documentaries that would be appropriate to show. Set up displays.

Check out the following resources for additional ideas:

- <http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_childlabour.html>
- <<http://www.anti-slaverysociety.addr.com>>

Information Sheet

Child Labor

A STORY

Gafur, an eight-year-old from a village in India, was a happy little boy even though his family was poor. He enjoyed playing with his friends and tolerated his chores just like any other boy. But a stranger convinced his parents to let him work in the city to earn extra money. Like many other children, Gafur found himself a victim of child slavery, working 12 hours a day in a carpet factory. His parents never saw him again.

RECITE TOGETHER (as directed)

- **Proverbs 29:7**—"The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern."
- **Proverbs 17:6**—"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."
- **Mark 9:37**—"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."
- **Psalm 72:4**—"He will defend the afflicted among the people and save the children of the needy; he will crush the oppressor."
- **Isaiah 1:17**—"Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless..."
- **Isaiah 56:1**—"Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed."

LEARN THE FACTS

- According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), 73 million children between the ages of 10 and 14 are employed in economic activities all over the world.
- In Sub-Saharan Africa around one in three children is engaged in child labor, representing 69 million children.
- In South Asia, another 44 million are engaged in child labor.
- Children living in the poorest households and in rural areas are most likely to be engaged in child labor. Those burdened with household chores are overwhelmingly girls.

BE INFORMED

Learn more about child labor and how to stop it. You can find good information and resources at the following sites:

- <http://www.unicef.org/protection/index_childlabour.html>
- <<http://www.childlabor.in>>

GET INVOLVED

- Find local agencies or ministries for which you can volunteer.
- Sponsor a child through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM). NCM partners with existing Nazarene congregations and ministries around the world to ensure that children living in dire financial circumstances are cared for and provided with educational, health, and spiritual opportunities they would not have without the Church's help. You can find out more about child sponsorship at <<http://cs.ncm.org/>>.

PRAY

- Pray for increased awareness in your community and your nation about the issue of child trafficking.
- Pray for law enforcement officials and other government officials who must face this issue.
- Pray for pastors and mission leaders around the world who are trying to provide safe and positive environments for children.

Living Mission CAUSE: Clean Water

Why Nazarene Organizations?

There is certainly no shortage of nonprofit organizations around the globe. Whether the concern is clean water in Africa, disaster relief in Haiti, or child soldiers in Uganda, one can easily be overwhelmed by the number of organizations that want our funds to effect change. Perhaps that's not a negative, but it certainly makes choosing an organization difficult.

Since its creation, the Church of the Nazarene has been concerned about the holistic transformation of people through Jesus Christ. We believe as Christians we are charged not only to preach the Gospel message to those who don't know Christ, but also to care for the immediate physical needs of those around the world. Like Jesus, we must care for those who the world considers the "least of these."

So what makes the Church of the Nazarene different? Through its network of local congregations, the denomination is very intentional about Kingdom work. Currently operating in 156 world areas, the leadership in each world area listens to the people to determine what ministries are needed in their own area, making the Church an organic organization. Because the Church of the Nazarene is so active and present around the world, whenever a natural disaster occurs—such as the Haiti earthquake—local Nazarene congregations are not only already present in that area but are some of the first to respond.

Through Nazarene efforts, the "least of these" are cared for. More than that, the Church of the Nazarene—and the kingdom of God—adds new believers each day, those who have seen Christ because of the physical care they have received.

As the ministry organization that mobilizes the Church of the Nazarene for compassion, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) partners with local Nazarene congregations around the world to clothe, shelter, feed, heal, educate, and live in solidarity with those who suffer under oppression, injustice, violence, poverty, hunger, and disease. NCM exists in and through the Church of the Nazarene to proclaim the Gospel to all people in word and deed. As a result, NCM is the global Nazarene church's ministry arm that works to provide clean water for those who do not have access to it.

Preparation

Before you speak to the church about this CAUSE for the first time, **ask** your pastor if you can announce the campaign in the bulletin a week or two before it begins or, if the members of your congregation have e-mail, send a message to let people know. Following is an idea for what you might include in the bulletin or in an e-mail:

Clean water. Most of us take it for granted, but clean water is a basic necessity to which one billion people around the world do not have access. Join us as we learn about ways to bring clean water to people around the world.

Presentation

Week 1: Why Water?

Ask those in the audience to close their eyes. Then **say**, "Take a moment and try to imagine sending your children to a school that does not have water. What would they drink? How would they wash their hands? How much more quickly would illness spread from child to child? Now imagine seeking help at a clinic that does not have clean water. How would the medical instruments and the patient waiting areas get cleaned? How might the medical staff wash their hands between patients?"

Ask the audience to open their eyes and **say** the following,

Like so many things, access to clean water is something we don't tend to spend time thinking about—until we find ourselves without it. The lack of safe, clean water doesn't just make daily chores, such as washing dishes and clothes, more difficult. It makes *living* difficult. Where there is

no clean water, people must choose between being thirsty and drinking dirty water, between not bathing and bathing in unsanitary water that is likely to make them sick, and sometimes the same water used by their livestock.

As Christians, we desire to spread the Gospel to those who don't know our Lord. This includes showing God's love through taking responsibility to physically care those who suffer. Perhaps no need is more immediate, more life-threatening, than the need for clean water.

Tell your group that over the next nine weeks you will be learning together about the need for clean water, then tell the following story.

Like so many people around the world, the people of Ndvwabangeni (dwa-bahn-GEH-nee), Swaziland, did not have clean water at their school, their clinic, even their church. Without access to clean water, people were forced to bathe in and drink from the same water source as donkeys.

Under these conditions, disease spreads quickly, affecting the lives of children immensely. Sick children frequently fall behind in their educations and are sometimes unable to continue attending school at all. This lack of education only contributes to the problems of a country as uneducated children grow into uneducated adults.

To make matters worse, a poor electrical system creates a situation in which any small disturbance in the electric power stops the functioning of electric pump wells for weeks, months, years, or sometimes permanently. Currently 60 percent of electrical-based rural water systems are dysfunctional.

What better way to power a well than with a power source that can be expected to work every day? NCM is combining its efforts in this part of the world with the Coca-Cola Foundation and Rain Water for Africa to harness the power of the sun to power life-sustaining water for the people of Ndvwabangeni, Swaziland.

What Can We Do?

1. **Discuss** this CAUSE with the pastor and mission leaders in your church, stating the need and asking if you have their permission to present it to the entire congregation. If there is hesitancy, ask if you may present it to a small group within the church.
2. **Talk** to your group about how your church can get involved. **Say** the following, "There is still so much to be done, so many people who need life-giving water. Today, nearly one *billion* people do not have access to clean water. We hope you'll join us as we continue to learn what our church can do to change this number as we act as the hands and feet of Jesus."
3. **Ask** the church to begin praying for this CAUSE. Consider holding a regular prayer meeting during this initiative to lift up the people affected by the problems of dirty water, and pray for the equipment used to bring clean water to the people.
4. **Set** a monetary goal for your group to raise and **announce** this goal to the group. Let them know that next week you will be talking about ways your church family can be in prayer and raise money for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' global Clean Water efforts.

Close the session by praying that God will lead all of you to remember the people around the world who do not have access to clean water. Pray also that God will impress on your hearts and minds ways your church can get involved in Clean Water initiatives.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENT**—"The Church of the Nazarene, through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, is already actively working to provide clean water to those who desperately need it."
- **PRAYER FOCUS**—Continue to pray this week about how you can get involved in Clean Water initiatives and be a voice for those who are often forgotten.

- **ACTION ITEM**—Go to <<http://www.ncm.org/projects>> to see what Nazarene Compassionate Ministries is doing around the world to provide clean water to those who need it.

Week 2: Clean Water Initiative

Below are some ideas for how your church can get involved in the Clean Water initiative. **Choose** one or more of these ideas to briefly mention to the church or brainstorm and present any of your own ideas. Then get started.

1. If you regularly buy bottled water, buy a reusable water bottle, fill it at your kitchen sink, and keep track of the money you would have spent on bottled water. Donate that money to a Clean Water initiative.
2. Love running? Organize a community 5k race with others in your church or small group. Put the information on the church Web site, in the church bulletin and at local coffee shops and fitness centers. Be sure to inform participants that all proceeds go to the Clean Water initiative.
3. Is someone in your church great at graphic design? Ask him or her to design Clean Water T-shirts and sell them. Donate the proceeds.
4. Organize a church pancake breakfast or spaghetti dinner. Encourage those who attend your church regularly to invite people from the community and also bring their own friends and family. Donate all proceeds.
5. Plan a churchwide garage and bake sale and/or car wash. Allow enough time for church members to bring in their items. Donate the proceeds.
6. If you're presenting this lesson during the Christmas season, ask those in your church to consider spending 50 percent less on Christmas gifts and donating the 50 percent saved to a Clean Water initiative.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENT**—"Often, digging a well is the easiest part of a water initiative. Preparation must be done before the well is installed, including selecting the appropriate materials based on the makeup of the land and offering safe use and good hygiene seminars for community members. Plans must also be put in place to make the well a sustainable solution."
- **PRAYER FOCUS**—Pray for those around the world who are planning to install wells in communities that need them. Pray that they will work hard to create sustainable solutions and conduct the necessary training to keep the community members safe.

Week 3: Children Need Clean Water

Tell the group that the responsibility of walking to collect water generally falls on women and children. This means that children who must walk to retrieve water are unable to go to school, to play with other children.

Remind the group of the ways you've chosen to raise money for the Clean Water initiative. Be sure to request volunteers if you need help to make an event or fundraiser happen. Depending on what event(s) you've decided to do, place sign-up sheets or informative handouts at the display area.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENT**—"Just *[insert the monetary equivalent of US\$1.00]* provides clean water for 1 person for 1 year in Haiti."
- **PRAYER FOCUS**—Pray for the children around the world who do not have clean water. Pray that they might be able to get an education. Pray for their safety as they travel on paths and roads and through desert and woods to collect water for their families.
- **ACTION ITEM**—Give to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) initiatives focusing on providing clean water to those who desperately need it. You can find information on NCM water projects by going

to <<http://www.ncm.org/projects/>> and entering the keyword “water” in the search box on the left side of the page.

Week 4: A Day Without Water

Encourage people in your group to try to spend an entire day without using water for anything. Every time you think of using water to accomplish a task, take a moment to pray for those around the world who don’t have access to clean water and for those who are trying to help provide it.

Week 5: Healing Waters

Ask if anyone who tried it would be willing to share about his or her day without water. Let people take turns sharing their experiences.

Tell the following story to your group:

On January 12, 2010, an earthquake devastated Haiti, instantly taking away the homes, livelihoods, and loved ones of thousands of Haitians. The clean water situation in Haiti was bleak before the earthquake, and it grew worse after the earth shifted, buildings crumbled, and areas flooded.

Communities of displaced people have developed in areas that were once public squares or parks. These communities are called Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Camps. Each day, individuals at the camp wait in line for hours to receive one bottle of water. One bottle to use for drinking, bathing, and cooking for that day! The next day, they must again wake up and walk to the IDP Camp and stand in line for a single bottle of water.

Whether standing in line at an IDP Camp to receive a single bottle of water or walking miles to gather dirty drinking water, the people of Haiti are struggling to simply survive. Haiti Water Project, through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, is working with local Nazarene churches to provide the people of Haiti with sustainable resources for clean, safe drinking water by building wells or cisterns (artificial reservoirs for storing water). Each well costs approximately US\$5,000.

Close by **praying** for the people of Haiti who do not have access to clean water to fulfill their daily needs. Pray also for people in the church and missionaries in Haiti.

What Do You Do Now?

- **‘DID YOU KNOW?’ ANNOUNCEMENT**—“Once Nazarene Compassionate Ministries receives donations for the Haiti Water Project, church leaders in Haiti determine which churches have the most immediate needs. From there, NCM contracts with an engineering organization in Haiti. The entire process, from receiving funds to building a well or cistern can take anywhere from several weeks to six months.”
(Haiti Water Project <<http://www.haitiwaterproject.com/faqs/>>—accessed October 12, 2010)
- **PRAYER FOCUS**—Pray for the Nazarene church leaders in Haiti. Pray that God will sustain them as they serve people facing tragedy and difficult circumstances that are unimaginable. Pray that they will continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus for a struggling people.
- **ACTION ITEM**—Go to <<http://www.haitiwaterproject.com/>> to learn more about what Haiti Water Project does and how you can get involved.

Week 6: How Much Water Do I Use?

Ask group members to use the calculator found at <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/sq3.html> to determine their daily water consumption and how they might choose to change some of their water usage habits. Then give a brief update on what’s going on in the church community to contribute to this cause.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENT**—"In Haiti, where 90 percent of the people do not have clean water in their homes, one well in a community can serve as many as 4,000 individuals. Installing one well at each of 500 local churches in Haiti would mean safe water for one million people."
- **PRAYER FOCUS**—Continue to pray for the church's Clean Water Campaign.

Week 7: Success in Marigot

Tell the following story to your group:

When temporary water solutions failed in Marigot, Haiti, women and children were walking two hours for one bucket of water. The future looked dim. But clean water changed the picture. Now that Marigot has a well with clean, safe water, they have that time to spend on other things...important things, like laughter, like education, like life. Serious Problem. Simple Solution.

Pray for the people of Marigot. Pray that their well will continue to function properly and that God will help them to use the life-giving water to allow the children and women of the village to spend their time living, rather than surviving.

Week 8: Contribution Update

Update your group on the funds raised so far, ways that people have contributed to raising the funds, and ways to continue to pray for the CAUSE.

Announce that there will be a celebration dinner for the community the next week after the service. Everyone who attends will be asked to contribute toward the dinner and make a small donation. (You can set a price or ask people to give what they feel led to contribute.) The funds will be added to the amount already given for the water project your church has chosen to support.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENT**—"Reminder: Next week is the last Sunday of the Clean Water Campaign! We will have a celebration meal after church." (Include any additional information about the celebration that you would like the church to know.)

Week 9: Celebration Sunday

Tell the following story to your group:

Pueblo Viejo, Dominican Republic

A five-gallon bottle of water costs US\$1.09 in Pueblo Viejo, Dominican Republic. Unfortunately, most people couldn't afford this and were forced to use dirty water for drinking and bathing, straining out the bits of rock, dirt, and an occasional dead animal. All the roads were made of dirt, creating a source for mosquitoes to multiply. The dire situation of the poor was evident because of the difference between their lives and the lives of the rich in the community. Basically, the rich had clean water; the poor had to make do with what they could get for free.

An aqueduct and paved roads have been the solution for this community. An aqueduct is a system of underground pipes that pulls water from an underground spring up to surface so people will have access to the water. The paved roads keep puddles from forming in the dips and crevices of a dirt road, preventing mosquitoes from multiplying.

The church community in Pueblo Viejo formed an organization to work with the community to raise money for an aqueduct and road. And with the money left over, the church chose to build a water filter system and a small store where they could sell five-gallon buckets of water for less than half of the purchase price at other locations.

(Beth Luthye, "Water for the Thirsty," *NCM Magazine*, Winter 2010: 6-8.)

Talk to your group about how, because of your church's efforts, NCM will be able to use funds you are sending to make more successes like this possible.

Tell the group the total amount of money raised and the time that has been spent in prayer and work toward your group's goal. Allow people to **share** about what the CAUSE has meant in their lives.

Ask the group to pray about making the Clean Water events annual fundraisers. Remember: one billion people still need help to make this life-giving necessity a reality in their villages and cities.

After the service, **host** a celebration dinner as described and add the amount you collect to your donation to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries.

Resources

1. Haiti Water Project,. <<http://www.haitiwaterproject.com/faqs/>>, (accessed October 12, 2010).
2. Luthye, Beth, "Water for the Thirsty," *NCM Magazine*, Winter 2010: 6-8.

Living Mission CAUSE: JESUS Film

Why Nazarene Organizations?

There certainly is no shortage of nonprofit organizations around the globe. Whether the concern is clean water in Africa, disaster relief in Haiti, or child soldiers in Uganda, one can easily be overwhelmed by the number of organizations that want our funds in order to effect change. Perhaps that's not a negative, but it certainly makes choosing an organization difficult.

Since its creation, the Church of the Nazarene has been concerned about the holistic transformation of people through Jesus Christ. We believe as Christians we are charged not only to preach the Gospel message to those who don't know Christ but also to care for the immediate physical needs of those around the world in need.

So what makes the Church of the Nazarene different? Through its network of local congregations, the denomination is very intentional about Kingdom work. Currently operating in 156 world areas, the leadership in each world area listens to the people to determine what ministries are needed in their own area, making the Church an organic organization. Because the Church of the Nazarene is so active and present around the world, whenever a natural disaster occurs—such as the Haiti earthquake—local Nazarene congregations are not only already present in that area, but are some of the first to respond on the ground.

The Church of the Nazarene—and the kingdom of God—adds to its numbers each day, creating new believers who have seen Christ because of the physical care they have received.

Preparation

Discuss this CAUSE with the pastor and mission leaders in your church, stating the need and asking if you have their permission to present it to the entire congregation. If there is hesitancy, ask if you may present it to a small group within the church.

Set a goal for your church to financially partner with the JESUS Film Harvest Partners ministry. Possible ideas include:

- Funding a \$6,000 set of equipment.
- Taking a ministry trip to deliver a set of equipment.
- Funding a JESUS Film Harvest Partners team for one year (\$15,000).
- Signing up to be a Harvest 120 sponsor (\$30 a month).

You can find more information about how to donate, as well as other opportunities for donation, at [<http://www.jfhp.org/donate/index.cfm>](http://www.jfhp.org/donate/index.cfm).

Presentation

Week 1: Why JESUS Film Harvest Partners?

Tell a story—or have someone else relate one—about a time you encountered something you had never seen before. Perhaps it was a kind of food, a cultural custom, or an item of technology. Talk about what you imagined this thing to be like. What did you expect the food to taste like? What was the technological device used for?

Follow up this story by asking people to name all the ways we take in information visually in an average day. Examples include billboards, movies, newspapers, television, and computers, among other things. Discuss the fact that images are the universal language of humanity, but seldom are we impressed by them. Instead, we expect them. We take them for granted.

Say,

Imagine this scenario: you've never seen a movie. Perhaps you've never even been introduced to the concept of movies. Not only that, but you've never seen a Bible. You have never been taught to read.

Under these circumstances, imagine a group of people coming to your town. They set up an elaborate contraption. Curious, you and others from your town, gather to see what the people are doing. Hours later, you are all still there, anticipating what will happen next. Finally, they step back. Whatever they have built appears to be ready. Then, in front of you, somehow coming from this contraption, are moving, talking images on a screen. You hear the name Jesus, see the man who must be called by that name. You watch—and finish—the first movie you've ever seen.

In a culture in which we read continually, it might surprise you to know that one-half to two-thirds of the world's population does not read, cannot read, or will not read.

The JESUS Film exists to be used in preliterate societies like this. For people around the world who neither read nor have even a basic knowledge of Jesus Christ, the JESUS Film brings them knowledge of Christ's saving grace in their own language through visual means.

Share the following information on JESUS Film Harvest Partners with your group.

Why JESUS Film Harvest Partners?

Produced by Campus Crusade for Christ in 1978, the JESUS Film has been translated into more than 1,000 languages, allowing people to not only see Jesus, but also to hear Him speak in their language. Campus Crusade experienced great success with many people making decisions for Christ. However, the organization lacked the structure to disciple new believers, so they asked for help from the Church of the Nazarene.

In 1997, this partnership between Campus Crusade for Christ and the Church of the Nazarene to show the JESUS Film was born. Through JESUS Film Harvest Partners (JFHP), the Nazarene Church now provides the leadership and workers around the world to show the film, disciple new believers, and start new churches. Utilizing the Church's existing presence in countries around the globe, millions of people who knew nothing about Christ have decided to follow Jesus, and thousands of new Nazarene preaching points have been established globally.

Many other organizations have "JESUS Film" in their names and use the tool, but JESUS Film Harvest Partners is using the film with missionaries and nationals in more than 150 countries. As new believers choose Christ, new Nazarene preaching points, then churches, develop around the globe, changing communities into places of restoration.

Discussion

Ask a few volunteers to tell the group something they learned today about JESUS Film Harvest Partners.

Ask, "Why is immediate follow-up with and discipleship of new Christians so important?"

Tell the group that over the next nine weeks, you will all learn more about the efforts of JESUS Film Harvest Partners and how you as a church can get involved in the work the global Church of the Nazarene is doing to share the Gospel around the world.

Close the session by **praying** that God would lead all of you to remember the JESUS Film efforts this week.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - "JESUS Film Harvest Partners is the Nazarene ministry arm of the church using the JESUS Film for evangelism."
 - "If the name doesn't say 'Harvest Partners,' another church or organization is funding the effort."

- **PRAYER FOCUS**
 - This week pray for the work in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Panama.
 - Ask God to give the JESUS Film teams favor as they travel to various locations.

Week 2: JFHP Weekly Prayer and Praise

Encourage people to sign up to receive the weekly *JFHP Prayer & Praise* e-mail at <<http://www.jfhp.org/email/subscribe.cfm>> if people in your church have e-mail capabilities. **Read** one of the prayer or praise reports from the most recent *Prayer & Praise* e-mail available at <<http://www.jfhp.org/prayer/index.cfm>>. If necessary ask someone to print this out.

What Do You Do Now?

- **‘DID YOU KNOW?’ ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - “Each region develops its own action plan for using the film to accomplish its local goals. JESUS Film Harvest Partners comes along side each region to help it achieve its goals.”
 - “People hear the Gospel in their own language because the film is translated into more than 1,050 languages.”
- **PRAYER FOCUS**
 - This week pray for the work in Cuba and Dominican Republic.
 - Pray for the new believers to grow strong in their walk with Christ.
- **ACTION ITEM**—Read the Frequently Asked Questions about JESUS Film Harvest Partners at <<http://www.jfhp.org/about/faqs.cfm>>.

Week 3: JESUS Film Harvest Partners Teams

Ask the group to discuss how you can work together to get involved in a tangible way with JESUS Film Harvest Partners. Review the following list with the group, and ask each person to begin praying about personal involvement. Encourage members of the group to spend some time on the JESUS Film Harvest Partners Web site <<http://www.jfhp.org/>>.

- Pray for the ministry.
- Give to win people to Jesus.
- Go on a JESUS Film ministry trip.
- Be a Harvest 120 sponsor.
- Tell others about the JESUS Film ministry.
- Volunteer.

What Do You Do Now?

- **‘DID YOU KNOW?’ ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - “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 teams in more than 100 countries.”
 - “Most teams work in a village or area for one month showing the JESUS Film, following up with viewers, training leaders, and helping set up preaching points to nurture new believers.”
- **PRAYER FOCUS**
 - This week pray for the work in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela.
 - Pray for the Holy Spirit to go before each team to prepare the hearts of the people for the truth.

Week 4: JESUS Film Equipment

Explain that a JESUS Film ministry trip is one way your church body can actively help national workers around the world to share God's love with those who don't know Him.

- A ministry trip is self-led by your local church, small group, class, or business.
- It is comprised of 7-10 people who join together to fund and deliver equipment directly to a JESUS Film team of nationals who are committed to reaching their country for Christ.
- Trips include working hand-in-hand with a JESUS Film team on the field and may include helping with a JESUS Film showing, equipment setup, distributing invitations, praying during the show, outreach, Vacation Bible School, compassionate ministries, etc.
- Activities and needs vary by country.
- The equipment delivered on a ministry trip will reach thousands of people with the Gospel message.

Ask people who are interested to talk with you after the service. Pray as a group about how God might desire for you to all work together to bring the Gospel to those who may have never heard it.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - The JESUS Film is one of the most effective evangelism tools in history.
 - The large equipment set weighs 225 pounds.
 - Equipment is delivered to JESUS Film teams by ministry trip groups from the U.S.A. and Canada. This assures the equipment is placed in the hands of those who need it most. Your church, family, or group can fund an equipment set and deliver it to a priority world location on a ministry trip. To learn more, visit <http://www.jfhp.org/ministrytrips/index.cfm>.
- **PRAYER FOCUS**
 - This week pray for the work in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.
 - Pray for God to open the eyes of people who worship many gods and goddesses.
 - Pray about helping deliver JESUS Film equipment to a team through a JESUS Film ministry trip.
- **ACTION ITEM**—Learn about JESUS Film ministry trips at <http://www.jfhp.org/ministrytrips/index.cfm>.

Week 5: Testimonies of Grace

Preparation

As you prepare for this lesson, **ask** people to read the following testimonies from around the world aloud to the group. Select as many or as few stories (shown in the "Presentation" section) as you like.

Presentation

Tell the group that in the Church of the Nazarene more than 10 million people have identified themselves as brothers and sisters in Christ because of the outreach of JESUS Film Harvest Partners. Following are some testimonies of real people whose lives have been changed by the showing of the film.

If you are in a large gathering, **ask** the people who will read the testimonies to come to the front of the room to read aloud to the group.

1. My name is Luis, and this is my testimony. I am 30 years old, and my life used to revolve around pagan religious parties and a lot of alcohol. My marriage was similar to that of my parents, with fights, alcohol, infidelity, poverty, lack of work, enemies, and so on. I felt like I was going crazy. One day, the pastor encouraged us to watch the JESUS Film. At the end of the film, the pastor invited people to come forward, and my family and I accepted Jesus. A year has now gone by, and everything, absolutely everything, has changed in our lives. Today we are serving the Lord. My children and my wife are happy. There is always work, and we have been able to influence my parents, uncles, and friends to

accept Jesus as their Savior. We thank the Lord for helping us through the ministry of the JESUS Film. **(Ecuador)**

2. Charito and Victor saw the JESUS Film at the invitation of one of their neighbors. They are 70 years old and have experienced a life of sadness, fighting, alcohol, witchcraft, and separation, although they lived under the same roof. Victor was the first to accept the Lord as his Savior. Victor told his pastor that his wife made his life impossible, and she had threatened him with more witchcraft if he did not leave the church. The pastor encouraged Victor to have faith in God. After church services, Victor and his pastor would spend time at the altar praying for Victor's wife and children. One Sunday, Victor's wife, Charito, came to church. The pastor spent some time with her and spoke to her about Jesus. She gave her heart to the Lord. Recently, Charito and Victor renewed their marriage vows in the church and have been faithful to God. They threw away all their pagan idols and witchcraft articles and have been happy since then. Their children are gradually coming to the church as well. **(Ecuador)**
3. Mama Brini was in spiritual warfare with the devil in her home. Mama is a woman of Christ. Her two children had been possessed by demons that caused them to be dumb and abnormal. Mama Brini was distraught and felt hopeless. When a team came to her area to show the JESUS Film, she quickly sought the team to join with her in prayer. The team prayed with Mama Brini; and through her faith in Jesus, when she returned home she found her children freed from the demons. The next day she brought her children as a testimony to God's power and grace. **(Kenya)**
4. Mr. Samson was well known by the people of the village as a devil worshipper. This 45-year-old man was not happy when he heard that the JESUS Film was coming to the area. At the first showing, he was very stubborn, yelling bad words at the team and the people attending the film. On the third day of watching the film, when Mr. Samson saw how Jesus was crucified on the cross, he cried to the Lord for forgiveness and surrendered his life to Jesus. He said that he had been misleading people when he said, "There is no God." Mr. Samson said, "But today I want to tell you that I accepted the Lord Jesus as my personal Savior. I have done wrong things that need to be forgiven." When the team left that place, Mr. Samson was a member of the church. He has denounced all secrets of devil worship. He also invited his friends to join and surrender themselves to the Lord Jesus. The family and community were very happy when they witnessed what took place in that area. **(Kenya)**
5. My name is Iqbal. I am 50 years old. I have been a bad man. I have lived a bad life and never thought I would change. But I am thankful to God who granted me an opportunity to change myself. One day, the team showed the JESUS Film in our village. I was interested in watching the miracles of Jesus. I saw that one disciple of Jesus, named Peter, was going to sink, but he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" and Jesus saved him. At that moment, I felt I was also sinking in sin and, if I did not call out to Jesus to save me, I would die. I repented of my sins and confessed my sins to a team member. When I did, I felt peace in my heart. I decided to be baptized. **(Pakistan)**
6. Mr. Elijah was planning to leave his wife and marry the schoolgirl he was dating. But he passed by a JESUS Film showing and was touched by the Word of God. He gave his life to the Lord, and all desires to leave his wife have vanished. He loves his wife and children very much and is praising God for this realization. **(Zambia)**

Close by **praying** for the believers around the world who have come to know Christ through the efforts of JESUS Film Harvest Partners. Pray especially for believers who are persecuted because of their faith.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENT**—JESUS Film Harvest Partners works with more than a dozen other ministry entities to share God's love with those who don't know Him. Several partners supply orality

tools for follow-up with new believers such as the EvangeCube™, Bible Story Cloths, the Proclaimer, and the evangelism soccer ball. To learn more, visit <<http://www.jfhp.org/resources/index.cfm>>.

- **PRAYER FOCUS**

- This week pray for the work in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, and Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Pray for the teams to be strong in the Lord.

- **ACTION ITEM**—Check out the current progress results at <<http://www.jfhp.org/progress/index.cfm>>.

Week 6: Our Commitment to Give

Remind your group or church about your collective commitment to provide needed funds or tools for JFHP. If you'd like, provide an update on what funds have already been given and any commitments small groups have made, such as commitments for teams to deliver equipment.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Historical averages indicate for each US\$3 [convert to your country's currency] gift to JFHP one more person meets Christ.
- JFHP is able to work so efficiently because the Church of the Nazarene's World Evangelism Fund (WEF) supports the infrastructure on the field that JFHP utilizes.

- **PRAYER FOCUS**

- This week pray for the work in Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique.
- Pray for God to touch the hearts of people in these areas who have not yet heard the name of Jesus.

- **ACTION ITEM**—Help share God's love with those who do not know Him by making an online gift at <<http://www.jfhp.org/donate/index.cfm>>.

Week 7: Showers of Blessings

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Individuals around the U.S.A. volunteer for JESUS Film Harvest Partners by serving as Ambassadors. To learn more, call 913-663-5700.
- The JESUS Film is considered the most effective evangelism tool in history.

- **PRAYER FOCUS**

- This week pray for the work in Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of South Africa, and Rwanda.
- Pray about your personal involvement in the ministry of JESUS Film Harvest Partners.

- **ACTION ITEM**—Check out the "Get Involved" section of the JFHP Web site at <<http://www.jfhp.org/getinvolved/index.cfm>>.

Week 8: Planning for Celebration

Announce that next week will be Celebration Sunday and will be a time to celebrate the church's efforts to partner with JESUS Film Harvest Partners. One possible option for the celebration is to have an international-themed potluck meal to celebrate JFHP's global efforts after your church service next Sunday. At the potluck, you could also announce the amount the church has raised and encourage those attending to dig deep to reach your goal.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- More than 24,000 Nazarene preaching points are the result of JFHP teams.

- JFHP is involved in evangelism, discipleship, church development, leadership training, and pastoral education.
- **PRAYER FOCUS**
 - This week pray for the work in Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
 - Pray for the pastors who are leading new preaching points.

Week 9: Celebration Sunday

Discussion

This week is the perfect time for members of the group to share what God has done in their hearts through this CAUSE campaign. **Ask** volunteers from the group to tell about how they have felt God challenging and leading them to be a part of the JESUS Film Harvest Partners ministry.

Has an individual or a group in the church become involved—through fundraising efforts, for example—in a unique way? Has anyone committed to taking a trip to deliver equipment? This week, highlight and celebrate your church's efforts.

Announce the church potluck and encourage everyone to celebrate. Also, take the opportunity to thank everyone for their involvement.

What Do You Do Now?

- **'DID YOU KNOW?' ANNOUNCEMENT**—Share the number of people who signed up to receive the JFHP weekly *Prayer & Praise* e-mail. Also share your target goal for the number of people signing up.
- **PRAYER FOCUS**
 - Pray for the staff of JESUS Film Harvest Partners and the teams as they share God's love with those who do not know Christ.
 - Pray for those people who are traveling on a JFHP ministry trip.