

Nazarene Missions International

G.S. Christian Sarmiento, D.S. Steve Scott, Members of the Convention, Friends,

This is my 4th report as president of the Sacramento District NMI. It is with great joy that I inform you that NMI is alive and well on the Sacramento District. Four years ago, I set out to do a “new thing” for missions on our district. I saw the aging population of attendees to the NMI convention, the aging of local presidents with no replacement in sight and the decline in the number of opportunities for missions involvement as a district. I set out to change that.

With the help of committed council members and in partnership with the Sacramento District NYI, we have implemented new programs designed to involve youth. Last summer we took high schoolers from across the district to Mezcala, Mexico, for a seven-day Work and Witness trip. They resourced, planned and presented a five-day VBS program. As many as 80 children attended each night from the small village where we are in the process of planting a Nazarene church. The church we are planting is the first Protestant church in Mezcala, ever. During the day they improved the work site for the retreat center we are building that will be used for children’s & youth camps, pastor’s retreats and training. My appreciation to Ron Armenta, who led this team.

Again, in cooperation with the Sacramento District NYI, we have continued our NMI/NYI Video contest in which students must learn about one aspect of NMI and then make a 90 second video about it. Each year the videos get better and better. Our winner last year was an excellent video from our Chico church about Alabaster that several of our churches used to promote Alabaster. General Superintendent Carla Sundberg has been encouraging NMI presidents to embrace the youth video contest.

In March 2023, 30 youth from across our district gathered in Vacaville for a missions retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to engage our youth in what it means to be a missionary, what a call to missions looks like and what other kinds of short-term involvement in missions are available. The Friday through Saturday event involved worship, games, a night at Scandia and several interactive sessions with missionaries. Again, my thanks to Ron Armenta and volunteers from Vacaville Sunrise church who directed this event.

Our next youth event is a W&W trip to Costa Rica. So far, we have 47 signed up. We are excited for this event and believe it could be transformational for our youth in regards to World Missions. Please keep the youth involved in this in your prayers.

For adults across the district, we reestablished a yearly district Work & Witness trip. Many of our churches are too small to conduct a W&W trip. This past year we took a team to Mezcala, Mexico, to work on the retreat center being built on the shores of the Lake Chapala, the largest

lake in Mexico, which supplies all the drinking water to Guadalajara, a city of 11 million people. They completely roofed one of the structures and worked preparing the next one.

Two years ago, we collected money from our Children's mission project for a Yamaha 125 motorcycle to be given to a pastor in Mexico. We have finally raised \$3,287.00 so we can purchase the motorcycle. John Beaver and I will be presenting it to a pastor in Mexico in May.

This year, for our Children's Project, we raised \$9,290.00 for Children's Bibles for Mexico. The amount far exceeded what we were planning on. The generosity of our local churches has been outstanding. The Bibles are now in Mexico and plans are being made to distribute them.

Giving is an essential part of what we do to support world evangelism. This year our church gave \$663,735.00 for the World Evangelism Fund. We gave \$22,141.00 for Alabaster and a total of \$257,222.00 for Approved Mission Projects from our churches and individuals who gave credit to our district. We give God the glory for this outpouring of generosity from our churches.

I wish to thank the members of our council this past year for their commitment to World Missions across our district: Ron Armenta, Pam Plaisted, John Beaver, Stacey Hanson, Lisa Henry, Gary Greeno, Vanessa Hawkins, Eric Beavis and Katie Guild.

It has truly been an honor to serve.

Respectfully,

Dan Hopkins
President, Sacramento District NMI