

# Nazarene Discipleship International

**Making Christlike disciples** in the Nations is the mission of the Church of the Nazarene. The mission for Sacramento District NDI is to inspire the work of **making Christlike disciples**, to encourage and **coach disciple-makers**, to **equip leaders** and to **support district-wide gatherings** in different areas of ministry including: children, family, recovery, camps, youth, women, adult discipleship, and media. Three years ago an NDI global strategy team, with representatives from each of the six world regions, prayed and sought God together to answer this question, “What are the principles, practices, and behaviors of a local church that **effectively make Christlike disciples**? After much time together, prayer and seeking the Lord’s voice, new bylaws for NDI emerged. In these new bylaws, **five core principles** were incorporated:

1. **Fervent Prayer:** Prayer is an essential part of discipleship. It involves communicating with and responding to God. Just as Jesus modeled prayer for His disciples, we are called to teach each generation to pray. Consistent and intentional prayer nurtures our relationship with God and others, allowing us to experience God’s grace.
2. **Compassionate Outreach:** God’s compassionate and redemptive love is foundational to discipleship. Compassionate outreach reveals God’s love for humanity. As disciples, our authentic and loving relationships with non-believers communicate the beauty of God’s grace and salvation. Outreach is every disciple’s calling.
3. **Comprehensive Biblical Learning:** Jesus prioritized teaching His disciples from the Scriptures. Learning the Word of God helps us become more like Christ. Through individual and group study, we uncover who God is, how He loves, and how we are to love others.
4. **Intentional Mentoring and Equipping:** Discipleship involves intentional mentoring. As mature believers, we come alongside others, guiding and equipping them in their faith journey. This process fosters growth and transformation.
5. **Authentic Relationships:** Genuine relationships are essential. By living and loving like Jesus, we engage in nurturing connections with others. Through prayerful and compassionate action, we prepare hearts to receive salvation, obeying Jesus’ command to proclaim the Good News.

This year I asked our NDI board to look closely at these five core principles and consider our role as a district board in each of these five areas. An important question in evaluating our progress in these five areas is, “What are we doing consistently, intentionally and effectively in resourcing churches on our district in these five areas of discipleship as a whole and how can we do better?” Take some time to read through these NDI core principles and answer that question with us. We’d love to get your feedback and hear good reports about how you, your ministry, and/or your local church are living out fervent prayer, compassionate outreach, comprehensive Bible learning, intentional mentoring and equipping and authentic relationships. **We are better together** and hope to partner with you in learning, growing and bearing fruit that will last! Our board contact information can be found on our website at [sacnazndi.org](http://sacnazndi.org).

Please join us in answering another important question, “How are we personally living out these five core principles?” Leaders live by example. Apostle Paul said, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” (1 Corinthians 11:1) If we want to see growing and thriving discipleship ministries on the Sacramento District, we must put into practice these core principles and then identify fruitful methods to grow and multiply. “Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2).

The first core principle, **Fervent Prayer**, is our priority this year and our board is committed to putting fervent prayer into practice this year as a team of leaders. We desire to grow in our awareness of the Lord's presence, to hear His voice more clearly, and to help others do the same. To do this we will gather together regularly on ZOOM as well as meet face to face in mini retreats to **fervently pray**. In doing this we believe we will grow deeper in our relationship with Jesus and one another and that we will be better prepared to cultivate a culture of biblical discipleship on the Sacramento District. We take our role as leaders on the NDI board very seriously. We need to hear His voice and follow Him which starts with prayer. "Apart from Him we can do nothing." (John 15:5) We need and covet your prayers and your participation in **fervently praying** that this year will be a year of seeing much growth in being and making disciples! Will you join us in this **fervent prayer** commitment? If so, please contact me at [dar@oronaz.org](mailto:dar@oronaz.org) or go to our website and contact any of our NDI board members.

Every Wednesday from 6 AM - 7AM we host a weekly ZOOM **prayer call** for anyone on our district who desires to participate. You are more than welcome to join us and connect with others around the district in prayer. During this time, we pray using five questions that Jesus asked his disciples. This is a method called Discipled by Jesus (DBJ) developed by Hal and Debbi Perkins who are authors, pastors, teachers and coaches in being and making Christlike disciples and disciple-makers. God is doing an amazing work through Hal and Debbi's ministry! In May of 2023, we were blessed to have them come lead a DBJ Summit for our district at Mt. Hope Bible Camp. This was three days full of much **fervent prayer**! We have another Summit scheduled for September 5-7. For more information go to [sacnazndi.org/DBJ](http://sacnazndi.org/DBJ).

Please join us in **fervently praying** for the following leaders and ministries of NDI:

Rev. Ron Zimmer, our Camps Director, and his committed team of leaders have prayed and served so faithfully for many years together. Camps last year bore much fruit as the kids learned the following truth from Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."* Now we pray for lasting fruit to be the result as we continue to listen to the Lord's voice in how to grow and thrive in this very important ministry for kids and youth! This year both kids camps will be at Mt. Hope and we are excited about the new adventures the kids will have as they focus on the 2024 theme – "Adventures in Faith" led by Director Julie Porta and her amazing leadership team of adult and youth volunteers!

Rev. Cathy Scharf has been our Children's Ministry Director since 2015 and for many years before that led faithfully in children's ministry for family camp and kid's camps. She is a woman after God's own heart for children, families, recovery, and outreach on our district. After 9 years as being District Children's Director Cathy has decided to step down and is trusting the Lord for what He wants for her in this next season. We will miss her on the NDI board but we know that she will continue to support and encourage the work of discipleship wherever the Lord leads her. Thank you sister Cathy for your many years of faithful service that we know will continue in new ways for His Glory! We also want to give a shout out to the team of quizzers who gave their all at the Global Quiz at General Assembly in June. A big thank you to director Jim Matthews and His leadership teams from Sparks and Redding. We appreciate all of your commitment to these kids and to this ministry.

Doniese Roberts, our Women's Ministry Directory is leading this ministry with confidence and sensitivity. She and her council blessed over 90 women at the annual Women's Ministry Conference last fall. The women who attended shared how powerful and transformational the Conference was for them. Because of the many positive comments received, Doniese and her team prayerfully decided to bring speaker and author Heather Murdock back for this spring's conference! Heather's theme this year

was, Pain to Purpose - A Heart Transformation Journey for Women. The Lord is at work in exciting ways in this ministry to women and we know lives have been changed forever! Doniese and her faithful team continue to pray and listen for what God wants to do in the coming year! For more information on upcoming events, go to [sacnazndi.org/women](http://sacnazndi.org/women).

Rev. Dale Marsh, our Recovery Ministry Director, continues to serve with all his heart to see lives restored and transformed for the Kingdom! We are seeing more and more fruit through the powerful ministry called *Came to Believe*. Dale is working one-on-one with several pastors and leaders on our district who desire to develop a recovery ministry in their church. He also has years of experience in reaching people in the recovery community and helps them connect to a local church body. Dale is always willing to meet with and guide church leaders who desire a healthy recovery ministry in their local church. For more information go to [sacnazndi.org/recovery](http://sacnazndi.org/recovery).

Rev. Jeff Bassett has been a faithful servant on our NDI team for many years and recently resigned as a pastor on our district. We are going to miss Jeff dearly and are grateful for the impact he has made in making Christlike disciples. Specifically, Jeff started our podcast ministry called *In the Way*. Angela Henning has come alongside Jeff recently in several episodes and has done a great job taking us deeper in relationship with Jesus and with others. We hope to continue this ministry in the future and are currently waiting on the Lord for the leader He is calling. If you haven't listened to the interviews on this podcast, you can do so on Spotify or go to our NDI website – [sacnazndi.org/media](http://sacnazndi.org/media).

As you can see, God is doing great things on the Sacramento District in the area of discipleship. We believe great things are ahead as we continue to **fervently pray** and listen to Jesus as He calls us for such a time as this to **make Christlike disciples in the nations**.

I'd like to close this report by saying what an amazing legacy Steve and Debbie Scott are leaving for the Sacramento District. They have led the way in cultivating a culture of biblical discipleship by their humble, sacrificial example of following Christ with all their heart. Steve and Debbie, we thank you for your love and support and for how you have empowered us, equipped us, loved us and served us in the Lord these past 18 years. We look forward to partnering with you in the Kingdom for many years to come. Mostly, thank you for your friendship and **fervent prayers** for all your family on the Sacramento District. We love you!

“The fervent prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.” (James 5:16b) Your prayers have done just that!

*With fervent prayers,*

Darlene Franks

Sacramento District NDI President and the NDI Board

Hannah Maddalena, Brett Cardoza , Erika Alvarez, Angela Henning, Beler Watts (treasurer), Mirna Perez, Doniese Roberts (Women's Ministry), Cathy Scharf (Children's Ministry), Marcia Garro, Ron Zimmer (Camps), Dale Marsh (Recovery), Jeff Bassett, Rita Englund (Secretary), Steve Scott