



## SERVE WITH A HEART LIKE JESUS

Greetings from your District NMI President

The theme for the upcoming church year, 2020-21, for the Rocky Mountain District NMI is “**Serve with a Heart like Jesus**”.

After washing His disciples feet, which was a great act of love, humility and service, Jesus said, “*I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you*” (John 13:15).

In this moment, Jesus sets an example for us to follow. He not only led by serving, but He also loved by serving.

To serve with a heart like Jesus means you genuinely care about people, even the people society considers unlovable. *John 13:34-35* “*A new command I give you: Love one another.*” Jesus encourages us to follow His lead and serve one another with a compassionate heart.

To serve with a heart like Jesus means to not only put other’s needs ahead of our own, but to serve with the right motivation—and that is to put God’s will first. *1 Corinthians 10:24*. “*No one should seek their own good, but the good of others.*” We serve God by serving others and we must have a servant’s heart to do that. Look for opportunities to serve with a selfless heart.

One of the best ways to find opportunities to serve is to ask God to give them to you, then listen to what He is saying. *John 14:26* “*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.*” The Holy Spirit will nudge you. Follow His prompting. If you feel God is calling you to stop and serve, then stop and serve with a heart like Jesus.

To serve with a heart like Jesus, you have to examine your heart. Are you struggling to love others? Ask God for a heart transplant. *Ezekiel 36:26-27* “*And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*” God will get to work molding, stretching, and changing your heart to love others with kindness and compassion.

Everything good we experience in life is a gift from God. (*James 1:17 Every good and perfect gift is from above ...*) In fact, this is where good starts. Whatever good we are capable of doing is only possible because God has given us the means. Perform simple, every day acts of kindness, with a heart like Jesus.

*Ephesians 2:10* says, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do”. Who has God placed in your path? We are called to serve. Who can you serve today? Are you ready to answer Jesus’ call?

We all should be excited about the changes coming to NMI globally as well as in our own District. Work & Witness is rebranding (a new name and new opportunities) and from the model I saw, it is opening up a vast number of areas and ways to serve with a heart like Jesus. You will be kept informed of the updates once they are ready to be announced.

Laramie Connections, a Nazarene Compassionate Ministries site, is expanding. A pilot project is in the works and may be coming soon to a church near you. More information will unfold as plans are finalized. This too will bring a wealth of volunteer scenarios.

Look around you... the opportunities to serve abound.... Seize one with a passion to do your utmost to serve with a heart like Jesus. Over this coming year, share with me how you and your congregation are serving God by serving others... with a heart like Jesus.

I, along with my district NMI council, will continue to bring you news of the mission events locally, district-wide, and globally. If you or your church has something to share, please post it to our NMI Rocky Mountain District FaceBook page or email me with details (and photos), and I will get the news out.

If your local NMI council is in need of resources, or training, please do not hesitate to contact me, and we, together, can figure something out.... Either by sending resources, or providing in-person training. Don’t have an NMI council?? Find someone in your church, even a teen, who is computer and social media friendly, and ask them to be the liaison between the district NMI council and your church. Offer them ways to share mission information either on your church’s FaceBook page/website, or by bulletin inserts, or with videos, by informing your prayer team, or by making announcements at the beginning of the service.

Do you have anyone in church who is considering a call to the mission field? If you do, please let me know, so that I can inform our Mission Call Coordinator.

The past convention year (2019-20) was marked by generous giving by the churches on our district and we exceeded our district WEF goal. The goal is determined by taking 5.5% of the reported income of the organized churches in the district (minus mission specials). The total amount of giving from all churches (organized, and unorganized) is combined to see if we met that goal.

As of June 14, 2020, and as reported on the Funding the Mission website, our district goal for 2019-20 was **\$160,456.56**. Total giving to WEF was **\$169,190.08**. We exceeded the goal by **\$8,733.52... or 105.44%**. Thank you to all the churches who generously and sacrificially supported the mission work of the Church of the Nazarene.

As a goal for the current convention year, 2020-21, I would like to see 100% participation ... every church give something to World Evangelism Fund. Year-end shows 7 churches contributed 0 dollars to WEF. Ideally, what a blessing it would be to see every church pay 100% or more of their allocation to WEF. Not an impossible thought, as with God all things are possible.

Be in prayer for your district NMI council, for our Links missionaries, for the lost of this world, for missionaries everywhere, for all the churches in our district, and for all the district leaders.

Encourage youth and children to get them excited about missions; include them by using resources geared for their age level or have a speaker talk to them about missionaries and the work they do for the Lord.

Don't forget to support Alabaster as well. One hundred percent of this offering supports the purchase of land, construction, or rent, of needed facilities for the Church of the Nazarene. 2019-20 year-end stats show our district churches giving a total of **\$18,550.45** to the Alabaster offering.

There are so many ways to give to support NMI and missions: through Child Sponsorship, Jesus Film, World Mission Broadcast, and more. Last convention year our district gave **\$108,782.86** to support mission specials. Praise God.

In His Love and By His Grace

JoAnn Hirning

RM District NMI President

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