



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

G L O B A L M I N I S T R Y C E N T E R

BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS

JERRY D. PORTER • JESSE C. MIDDENDORF • J. K. WARRICK • EUGÉNIO R. DUARTE • DAVID W. GRAVES • STAN A. TOLER

October 8, 2009

Dear Pastors and NMI Presidents:

Greetings in the strong name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

I am writing on behalf of the Board of General Superintendents to thank you for your faithful support of the World Evangelism Fund (WEF) and to request your help.

As you may recall, in my Quadrennial Address to the 27th General Assembly I discussed the challenges of the current economy and the sweeping budget reductions made at the Global Ministry Center in order to balance the budget for the 2009 fiscal year. These extreme measures, along with excellent stewardship on the part of ministry leaders and staff, have kept the worldwide mission activity of the Church of the Nazarene moving forward.

While the Church has made good progress in responding to the global recession, giving for world evangelization is behind the original amount of receipts projected for fiscal year 2009 by 9.1 percent year-to-date, or \$4.2 million dollars. Keeping over 700 missionaries and mission core personnel in place is dependent on 100 percent WEF participation by Nazarene churches.

It is my firm belief that Nazarenes are the most generous people in the world, and they have a 100-year track record of responding to legitimate need. ***Therefore, I am asking every local Church of the Nazarene to place a high priority on the 2009 Thanksgiving Offering.***

My prayer is that Nazarenes will give one of the largest Thanksgiving Offerings ever—even though we are in difficult times.

Is it ever possible to place a dollar amount on the cost of mission? Let me try putting the funding issue in proper perspective by giving an example of *sacrifice* from one of the 155 world areas where the church ministers in Jesus' name ...

Earlier in 2009, General Superintendent Emeritus James H. Diehl conducted an assembly for a district in India that includes the Orissa State. District Superintendent Sudipta Behera reported on the violence that was focused on Christian believers. There were 34 Nazarene churches that were completely destroyed. Hundreds of Nazarenes lost their homes.

Three Nazarene pastors were martyred because they were ministers for Jesus Christ. Behera continued, "The smoke of violence is not yet over." Others face similar conditions in different regions.

If we are a "family" as we say we are, then let us remember our fellow Nazarenes in prayer, being mindful of some who have made the ultimate sacrifice as we consider what God would have us do in supporting the global mission.

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Our Board recognizes the economic hardships faced by many local churches. All of us in the Global Ministry Center are keenly aware of these new realities. Yet we also believe God provides for His people and His mission. Let us pray toward this end. Will you ask the Lord right now to guide you in leading your congregation to give one of the greatest offerings ever for missions? This will enable us collectively to overcome the shortfall and to continue advancing the cause of Christ.

Please accept my gratitude for making your people aware of this need. We believe Nazarenes will find a way to respond, by faith, through the Thanksgiving Offering.

As always, feel free to write us at bgs@nazarene.org.

Yours in Christ,



Jesse C. Middendorf

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Special note: Be sure to access the MediaLibrary for [Mission Giving Resources](#), which include videos and other resources that can be downloaded to help promote various giving opportunities for missions, including the Thanksgiving Offering.