

Northern Lights Newsletter

Northern Michigan District Church of the Nazarene
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January, 2020

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As we begin a new year I want to share a devotional from L.B Cowman's - Streams In The Desert

I will] move along slowly at the pace of the flocks and herds before me and the pace of the children. GENESIS 33: 14

What a beautiful picture of Jacob's thoughtfulness for the cattle and the children! He would not allow them to be driven too hard for even one day. He would not lead them at a pace equal to what a strong man like Esau could keep or expected them to keep, but only one as fast as they were able to endure. By traveling with them, he knew exactly how far they could go in a day, and he made that his only consideration in planning their travel. He had taken the same wilderness journey years before and knew from personal experience its roughness, heat, and distance. And so he said, "I will move along slowly, since you have never been this way before" (Joshua 3: 4).

We "have never been this way before," but the Lord Jesus has. It is all untraveled and unknown ground to us, but He knows it all through personal experience. He knows the steep places that take our breath away, the rocky paths that make our feet ache, the hot and shadeless stretches that bring us to exhaustion, and the rushing rivers that we have to cross. Jesus has gone through it all before us. As John 4: 6 shows, "Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down." He was battered by every possible torrent, but all the floodwaters coming against Him never quenched His love. Jesus was made a perfect leader by the things He suffered. "He knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust" (Psalm 103: 14). Think of that when you are tempted to question the gentleness of His leading. He remembers all the time and will never make you take even one step beyond what your feet are able to endure. Never mind if you think you are unable to take another step, for either He will strengthen you to make you able, or He will call a sudden halt, and you will not have to take it at all. FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL

It is a comfort to reflect that our Heavenly Father knows where we are, not just in a spatial, physical sense, but in an absolute sense. **The Lord shall preserve [our] going out and [our] coming in from this time forward, and even forevermore (Ps. 121:8).** He is aware of our situations and nothing surprises or unsettles Him. May you find comfort and peace knowing that Jesus is leading us forward. He who is always faithful is our present help!

Rev. Dan Gilmore, District Superintendent

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL



Jill Rice is the NMI President of the Northern Michigan District

In November the Northern Michigan District had the awesome opportunity to send a Work and Witness Team to the Invisible Conference held in Kyrenia, Cyprus. Over 500 Nazarene lay leaders and missionaries from the Church of the Nazarene's Eurasia Region attended this conference. The Eurasia Region includes 93 different nations or distinct areas across Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, North Africa, and the CIS. Our small team was formed on very short notice after two teams on other districts were forced to back out and we received an urgent request to send a team. Our mission was to care for the children of the delegates and missionaries during the one-week conference. We had only six team members for this big task. They included our District Superintendent, Daniel Gilmore and his wife, Jackie, along with my husband, Rick, and myself. We also recruited friends from the Northwest and Southwest Indiana Districts, Susan Sheets and Nancy Smith, as a part of the team.

We ministered to approximately 35 children from 17 different countries, including Russia, Kosovo, Spain, Israel, Hungary, Bulgaria, Lebanon, Jordan, Sweden, Slovakia, Belarus, Holland, Sri Lanka, Germany, Argentina, France and Turkey. The children spoke Russian, Arabic, Spanish, Swedish, Czech, Dutch, German, and Turkish along with English. They ranged in age from 2 to 11 years old.

We held an extended Vacation Bible School program (ROAR) for the children with sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening (from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 pm. with a few breaks). It was VBS on steroids! We enjoyed taking the children on a pretend "Africa safari" adventure while sharing with them the story of the Israelite's escape from Egypt and journey through the wilderness to the Promised Land. Some of the older children also recited Bible memory verses for the entire conference in one of the final sessions. Our VBS assignments were Rick Rice – music; Dan and Jackie Gilmore – recreation; Susan Sheets – snacks and Bible memory (that was a little hard with so many languages); Nancy Smith – crafts; and Jill – Bible stories and drama (with help from our very own scary Pharaoh, aka DS Dan Gilmore). Thankfully, God sent a few other adults, parents and teens to help us from time to time, including one wonderful Russian lady who spoke no English. We were also blessed because many of the children could speak more than one language. One young girl in particular could speak five different languages and helped translate our Bible lessons into Arabic for our children from Lebanon and Jordan.

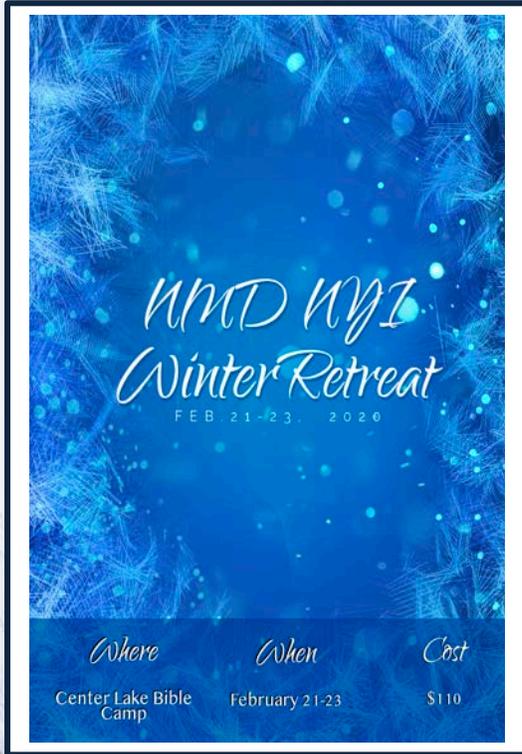


We were able to develop close friendships with these children and their parents (and even grandparents) during the time we had together. Most of all, we were blessed to see the diverse nature of our Church of the Nazarene and the strong leaders from so many different countries. I loved it when the children could tell the end of the Bible stories (in Arabic, Russian and other languages) before I could finish them in English. The children were well trained in the Word of God! We are blessed with a very strong church in the vast Eurasia Region!

We would like to give special thanks to the Beaverton Church and another church in Illinois who allowed us borrow their VBS materials and to Terri Ward of the Traverse City Church who let us use her video projector! Nancy Smith also donated almost all of the crafts for the VBS. We even had two suitcases of extra supplies and crafts that we sent to child ministry centers in Belarus and one of the other countries on the region.

Following the conference, our team traveled to Greece where we visited Athens, Corinth and Delphi. It was amazing to walk where Paul and our early New Testament leaders walked and where much of the history of the New Testament took place. We came home feeling very blessed by our Christian heritage and our Nazarene brothers and sisters (and especially their children) around the world. I am especially grateful for our wonderful District Superintendent and Jackie who came along side and helped us make this trip happen on such short notice. They also did the hardest job – recreation (in a hallway) with a smile! We are blessed!!!





<https://www.nmdnyi.com/winter-white-out.html> is the direct link to forms and information.

“FAITH NEVER KNOWS WHERE IT IS BEING LED, BUT IT LOVES AND KNOWS THE ONE WHO IS LEADING.” — OSWALD CHAMBERS

Middle School and High School students will be gathering at Center Lake Bible Camp in Tustin on February 21-23, 2020 for Northern Michigan's NYI Winter Retreat! This is not just another event in the middle of Michigan's Winter, but a spiritual renewal for youth who are longing for God in a broken world. More than one student has said, "Out of all the events we do, this is the one that I feel closest to God." What parent doesn't want to hear that from their child! If your church hasn't participated before, here is a quick rundown of what to expect. Friday groups arrive between 6-8pm for check-in. We then have our "official" opening at 8pm with a crazy game followed by worship. Over the 3 days teens will participate in winter activities (night sledding, cross country skiing, etc.), the rec room, powerful worship, and wild group games. Most importantly this will be a time to meet God and strengthen bonds with other teens. Event concludes following lunch on Sunday. Please promote this event with your students and if there is someone in your group who has been before, have them share their experience. To register simply fill out "The Roster" and send a check covering the group's deposit (\$25 a person) by Feb. 2nd with Medical / Release forms. When the group arrives February 21st you can bring a check with the balance. Forms can be mailed to Rev. Jeremy Gomez at 10160 S. Grant Ave., Clare, MI 48617. If you have any questions you can call 989-386-3381. You can also go to nmdnyi.com and click on Winter White Out for additional forms. Looking forward to our time together.



Rev. Jeremy Gomez is the Discipleship Pastor at Clare Church of the Nazarene and the Northern Michigan District NYI President.

Pastor And Church Emergency Fund

The NMD **PACE** Fund exists to provide timely assistance to our district pastors and families for support in times of crisis. Our desire is to be ready when our churches and pastoral families face unexpected financial burdens. The Lord directs us, as His church, to “bear one another’s burdens.” This is the “Law of Christ”. The **PACE** fund has been established so that we may be able to help when needs arise.

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD GOD’S KINGDOM



P A C E

(Pastors And Churches Emergency)

FUND

*If we live by the Spirit,
let us also keep in step
with the Spirit.*

~Galatians 5:25~

If you would like to donate to this ministry please make your checks payable to Northern Michigan District and send your contribution to the NMD Office (MEMO – PACE Fund) at PO Box 1006 Traverse City, MI 49685. Thank you for your gifts and prayers.



2020

Jan 25	District Board of Ministry – Traverse City COTN
Feb 20	District Advisory Board (Nominating & Finance Committees) Traverse City COTN
Feb 21-23	NYI Winter White Out – Center Lake Bible Camp, Tustin, MI
March 7	District Celebrate Life – Beaverton COTN
April 16	Camp Board Meeting
April 24-25	District Assembly – Cadillac Cherry Grove COTN
May 7	ONU Baccalaureate
May 8	ONU Commencement
May 14-16	Regional Celebrate Life – ONU
June 1-3	PALCON – ONU http://palcon.org/olivet
July 27-31	Children’s Camp – Manton Christian Camp
Aug 2-7	Family/Teen Camp – Manton Christian Camp

District events, news, and prayer requests are updated regularly on the district website:
www.nmdnaz.org