

August | 2021

# Northern Lights

The Official Newsletter of the  
Northern Michigan District Church of the Nazarene



## Mark 5:36 “Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

Over the last month, our congregation has been journeying together through chapters 5 and 6 of the gospel of Mark. We discovered anew the faith of a despairing father, the restoration of a desperate woman, the healing of a broken man, Jesus’ authority over nature, and the miraculous feeding of 5,000 men (plus women and children!). All this in two chapters!

It struck me how much interplay there is between Jesus’ ability to do miracles and our belief that He can do so. When Jesus was in His hometown of Nazareth, in Mark 6, He “could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.” Somehow the people’s lack of faith directly impacted Jesus’ ability to perform miracles. Somehow their inability to believe led to an inability for God to work.

On the other hand, we see over and over again in these two chapters, what happens when people believe that Jesus is who He says He is and that He can do what He says He can do. The woman believes that if she can just touch Jesus’ cloak she will be made well. The father believes that if Jesus would just touch his daughter everything will be alright. The disciples don’t exactly understand what’s going on with 5 loaves and two fish, but they believe that Jesus knows what He is doing... and so... they obey. Each acted out of the trust they had in Him. And they saw miracles happening all around them.



Are we seeing miracles happening all around us? If no, why not? Do we believe that Jesus is who He says He is and that He can do what He says He can do? Are we acting on that faith? Are we living out of that faith, day in and day out, moment by moment? I don’t know about you, but I want to see miracles happening! I want to see God at work in the world around me, and I want to be a part of what He’s doing. Let’s pray together that we would have eyes to see, ears to hear, and the faith to step out and follow Him wherever He leads.

Are we living out of this center of faith that says, “God, You can do anything.”?



**Rev. Gil Thibault**

Distict NYI President and  
pastor of Cadillac First Church  
of the Nazarene

Join us for food, fun and fellowship.  
Lunch served at 1:00 pm.

# DISTRICT PICNIC

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

REED CITY COTN

5300 220th Ave. Reed City, MI



Guest Speaker: Dr. Gregg Chenoweth  
President - Olivet Nazarene University

Lunch will be provided. Bring your chairs or blankets and join us.  
Games and activities for the kids.

This event is FREE but to help us prepare please click [here](#)  
to RSVP.

# 2021 – NMI Missionary Deputation Tour with Steven and Rebecca Barber, missionaries in Thailand

Steven and Rebecca Barber have been serving as missionaries in Thailand since 2016. They were commissioned as Nazarene Missionaries on Global Assignment to the Asia-Pacific Region in 2021. They will be on the Northern Michigan District from October 3 – 10. If you are interested in having them come to your church or small group please contact Jennifer Emery at [nminmdsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:nminmdsecretary@gmail.com) to schedule a visit.

Remember, it is fine to schedule a morning breakfast, picnic lunch, small group time in someone's home, a church service, or a church fellowship with the missionaries! Feel free to be creative! You do not have to have a big crowd to schedule a missionary! They would love to meet you. We ask that you take a free will offering after the missionaries speak. If possible, we also request that your church provide lodging on the night that the missionary visits your church. If you cannot do that contact Jill Rice (231) 218-1134. We will assist with lodging.

- October 3, 2021 (Sunday morning) – Traverse City COTN
- October 3, 2021 (Sunday evening) – Open
- October 4, 2021 (Monday) – Open
- October 5, 2021 (Tuesday) – Open
- October 6, 2021 (Wednesday) – Open
- October 7, 2021 (Thursday) – Open
- October 8, 2021 (Friday) – Open
- October 9, 2021 (Saturday) – Open
- October 10, 2021 (Sunday morning) – Cadillac First COTN
- October 10, 2021 (Sunday evening) – Open

Michael Perkins from American Family Association, producer of "In His Image" (watch movie here: <https://inhisimage.movie/>) visited Northern Michigan, sponsored by The American Decency Association (Fremont, MI) and he spoke at two of our district churches, Beaverton and Alanson. Here is a Youtube link of the meeting held at Alanson, <https://youtu.be/dC5600UzBt4>.



Just for fun!



## Prayer Mobilization Line

The prayer mobilization line is a great way to stay informed and updated about our missionaries and their ministries and prayer requests. Go to [www.nazarene.org/nmi/prayer](http://www.nazarene.org/nmi/prayer).

Scroll to the bottom of the page if you would like to subscribe.



**NCM**  
MAGAZINE

Online  
Now



The latest issue of NCM Magazine is now online!

We are excited to share stories of Nazarene churches who are serving with Christ's compassion around the world.

See how churches are spreading hope.

## Upcoming Events

### 2021

- August 19 (9:00am-noon) - Pastors' Focus Group meeting w/ Dr. Chenoweth - Clare COTN
- Sept. 4 - District Picnic - Reed City COTN
- Oct. 7 - Prime Time & Grandparents Day @ ONU
- Oct. 3-10 NMI Missionary Deputation Tour (be watching for dates and times near you)
- October 8-9 - District Women's Retreat - Lakeside Resort in Houghton Lake
- October 22-24 - Homecoming @ ONU
- Dec. 4 - Pastor's Family Christmas Gathering - West Bay Beach Resort, Traverse City

### 2022

- Jan. 29 - District Board of Ministry - Traverse City COTN
- Feb. 17 - District Advisory Board - Traverse City COTN
- March 11-13 - Pastor and Spouse Retreat - West Bay Beach Resort, Traverse City
- April 22-23 - District Assembly - Clare COTN
- May 21 - NMI Convention

### 2023

- June 9-16 - General Assembly - Indianapolis, Indiana
- July 5-9 - Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) - Tampa Bay, Florida