

## **New District NMI Council for 2020-2021**

We are excited to announce the new District NMI Council for the coming year. The NMI executive council includes: Jill Rice, President; Ron VanSyckle, Vice President; Jennifer Emery, Secretary; and Jan Crockett, Treasurer. The remaining council members are Marlys Drebenstedt, Matt Gunderman, Michelle Gunderman, Jeffrey Potter, Melissa Ruhl, Genie VanSyckle, and Sarah Thibault.

## **Delegates to the 2021 General NMI Convention**

Jennifer Emery, Ron VanSyckle and Genie VanSyckle have been elected to serve as our district delegates to the 2021 General NMI Convention.

## **NMI Theme for 2020-2021**

Our theme for the coming year is **Education: Passport to Missions**. Our theme Bible verse is “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, *teaching them* to observe all that I have commanded you. Matthew 28:19.

During the year we will be highlighting various education ministries of NMI throughout the world and offering guidance to the local churches on the District on (1) tools that we can use to educate our congregations about needs around the world, (2) ways that our people can minister in missions both at home and in other places, (3) the path for individuals to answer their calls to serve God through mission work, and (4) special opportunities to teach children and youth about the importance of joining God in His mission.

## **NMI Projects for 2020-2021**

**Who’s Your Buddy?** (Adult Project) - This year our adults will be raising funds to assist international NMI delegates with expenses in coming to General NMI Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, in June 2021. Many international delegates are unable to come to the convention due to the travel costs. We want to be sure that every person who is elected as a delegate to the General NMI Convention is able to come! The goal is \$600.00 for each church.

**School Uniforms for Native American Christian Academy** (Children’s Project) - Our children will be collecting new clothing (school uniforms) for students at Native American Christian Academy (NACA) in Sun Valley, Arizona. NACA is a 1<sup>st</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade mission school for Native Americans. The mission of NACA is to educate and disciple students for Christ. NACA is a 10% mission special of the Church of the Nazarene. NACA provides three meals a day, showers, and a safe boarding school environment, where the students live under the loving and prayerful care of dedicated dorm parents.

After closing as a result of COVID-19, NACA will reopen to students this summer and will continue with regular classes in the fall. Bethany Chouinard of our District has served as a dorm leader at NACA for several years. This year she will be teaching students. Bethany has

indicated that NACA does not have a need for food or school supplies at this time, but the students need new clothing to wear at school – consisting of khaki-style pants (long pants or shorts), polo shirts, socks and underwear of all sizes. **The clothing can be any color, but must be new. We cannot accept used clothing at this time.**

We are asking each church to collect and mail the clothing to NACA as the boxes are filled. Keep in mind that many online stores will ship directly to the campus if requested - helping cut down on having to ship a package twice. Packages should be mailed to: Native American Christian Academy, Post Office Box 4013, 8450 S. Sun Valley Rd., Sun Valley AZ 86029. Please text Jill Rice at (231) 218-1134 and send an email to [SpecialNeeds@NACA-AZ.org](mailto:SpecialNeeds@NACA-AZ.org) and let them know when your church has sent a box or that your package for this project. If your church would like to plan a Work & Witness trip or visit to NACA, you can bring the items with you.

We also encourage monetary donations for this project if you would like to avoid paying shipping costs. Donations should be marked “NACA Children’s Project” and be sent to Jan Crockett, District NMI Treasurer, Post Office Box 6822, Traverse City, Michigan 49696-6822.

By supporting this Children’s Project, our churches will be providing loving support to the children of one of the most vulnerable populations that has been hit by COVID-19.

**Craft-Filled Suitcases for Children’s Ministry Centers** (General NMI Convention Project) - We are asking each church on our district to fill one medium-size suitcase with craft and VBS supplies for child-care ministry centers around the world and to provide \$100.00 for the cost of sending the suitcase home from General NMI Convention with an international NMI delegate.

The suitcase should be filled with the following types of supplies that can be used for children’s ministry and crafts: white and colored card stock paper, posters, construction paper, markers, colored pencils, glitter, glue and paint (double sealed in plastic bags), yarn, crayons, cotton balls, funny eyeballs, VBS music and Bible story DVDs (these are especially needed and treasured), and other craft materials. **Tip:** Many of these supplies can be purchased at a greatly reduced cost in August when the school supplies go on sale! Also, animal print cloth shower curtains (elephants, giraffes, etc.) can be purchased cheaply on the internet and make great wall displays to go along with Safari VBS themes.

### **Work and Witness Update**

Due to COVID-19, all work and witness trips for the Church of the Nazarene have currently been suspended. We anticipate that some trips will resume in the summer and fall of this year, but many trips may need to be put off longer due to continuing outbreaks of the virus around the world. With sad hearts, we have postponed our February 2021 work and witness trip to Africa Nazarene University. We will let you know as soon as the trip is rescheduled.

## **Zoom Deputation Services/Local NMI President Mission Coffee Talks**

Get ready! We are planning to have Deputation Services and Local NMI President Mission Coffee Talks in late summer and fall by Zoom. Details to follow!

## **Praying for NMI**

The Board of General Superintendents has called the church to prayer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic! The Prayer Mobilization Line (PML) is a weekly publication focusing on the prayer needs and praise reports for the global ministries of the Church of the Nazarene and our missionaries. It is available in English, Portuguese and Spanish. Anyone can subscribe to receive PML free of charge by signing up on the NMI website. Access [www.nazarene.org/nmi/prayer](http://www.nazarene.org/nmi/prayer) and scroll down to the bottom of the page to subscribe. Special needs and prayer requests relating to the COVID-19 crisis are being included on PML. Past weekly prayer requests are also archived on the site. Be sure to sign up for PML today!