

OCTOBER - 2022

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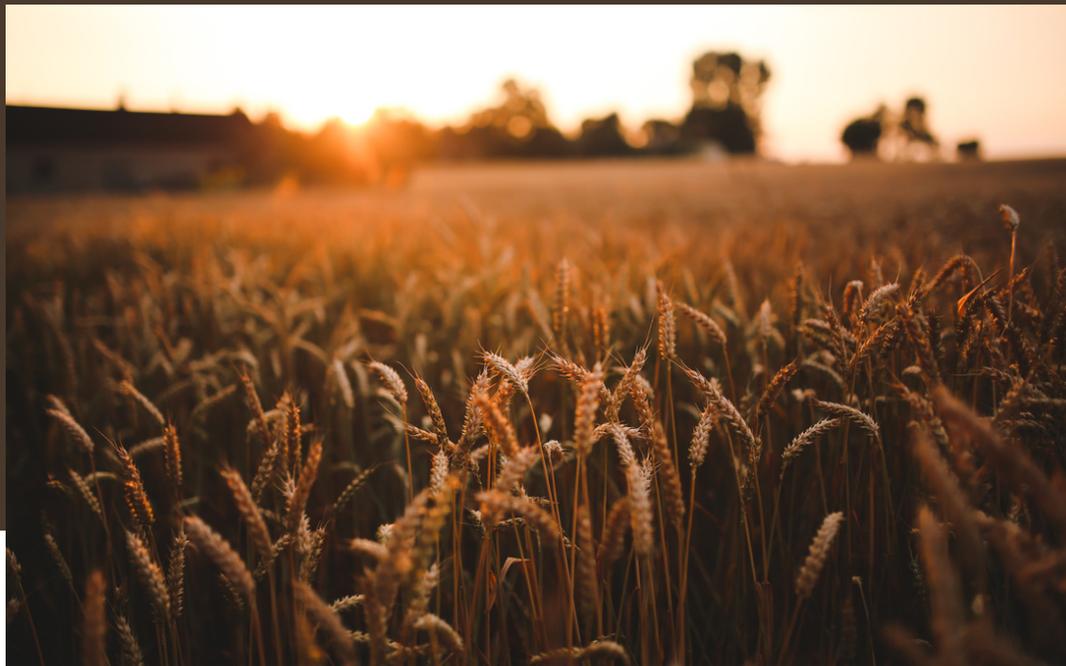
NORTHERN LIGHTS

Northern Michigan District Church of the Nazarene

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[Holiness Today Magazine](#)



What Is Truth?

by Rev. Jeremy Gomez, District Secretary
Pastor - Cadillac Cherry Grove

I want you to finish this sentence: "...for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to..." To what? The answer is found in John 18. What an incredible scene that is described for us. Jesus is standing before Pilot, the angels understanding this moment in history are leaning forward in heaven to hear the dialogue. Because the King of the universe is now standing on trial before his own creation. Jesus has been nearly silent the entire night, through all the accusations, but now He speaks. "I have come into the world to testify to the truth." Do you know how many times Jesus uses the word truth? Around 75 times! In fact, in the book of John, in nearly every other chapter Jesus uses the word truth.

Now this doesn't go well with our tolerant world, an idea of absolute truth, an idea of right and wrong. This is the battle that has raged from the very beginning. From that moment when Satan entered into the garden and immediately his words were, "Did God really say...you will surely not die?" There at the beginning we see a lie that countered God's Truth! The enemy continues to use the same tactics today. Every time Satan whispers in our ears it is an attempt to counter God's truth claims with lies, and lies will always take us captive.

Do you remember the scene in Luke 4 where the synagogue leader hands Jesus the scroll of Isaiah? Jesus reads from Isaiah 61 and says, "I have come into the world to preach the good news, to proclaim freedom and to set the captives free?" Did he mean he was going to break into prisons and release those that have broken the law, murderers, thieves and so on? No. Jesus came to set us free. But to set us free from what? From that which takes us captive. And what takes us captive? Lies!!! The lies of the world, the lies of the devil, sometimes the lies in our heads and it is the Truth that sets us free.

My son Caleb, gave me one of my all time favorite Christmas gifts a few years ago, the reproduction of Noah Webster's first dictionary of 1828. So how was truth defined in 1828? "Conformity to fact or reality; exact accordance with that which is or has been or shall be...We rely on the truth of scriptural prophecies." You won't find that in today's dictionaries. But listen how he describes truth - "truth is reality!" Truth corresponds to what is real - and what is actually real? God is! Jesus said, "I am the Way, the **Truth** and the Life." So when Jesus said to Pilot, "I've come to testify to the truth" what he was saying was, "I Am Truth and the closer you get to me, the clearer you will begin to see the lies around you and begin seeing what is really real. "Unfortunately for Pilot, he would walk away from the greatest authority, on the greatest question, and committed the greatest crime and didn't pause long enough to hear the answer. May we pause long enough to hear the answer, "I Am Truth!"



OCTOBER IS... PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

To be a pastor is to be something unique among all the helps ministries. A major clergy effectiveness study conducted by Richard DeShon demonstrated that to be a pastor requires 65 different life skills! They are on call 24/7 and involved during the most personal and emotional moments of our lives, from the birth of our babies, to the marriages of our children, to the deaths of our loved ones. They lead, train, equip, counsel, and walk with us on the journey of life, leading the way on the heavenly path. We encourage you to find ways to express your gratitude to your pastor and family during this special month.

We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing our work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

From the District Superintendent...



Rev. Damon & Jamie
Carpenter

On behalf of the Northern Michigan District it is my distinct honor to bid a loving farewell to dear friends, Rev. Damon and Jamie Carpenter. Their 18 years of Kingdom ministry on the district and their faithful love and care for families and children in Northern Michigan is a credit and blessing to us all. Twelve years ago, Damon and Jamie launched a daycare ministry (Stepping Stones Children's Center) which is an effective Kingdom outpost, having ministered to over 300 families in that time. Even through the horrific tragedy of the death of their precious 18 year old daughter, Payton, they continued to minister the love and care of Christ to families in the Lake Ann area. Their service for Christ to others was a source of the healing balm of Gilead to their grieving souls. We will miss you, Damon and Jamie, and trust God's blessings and ministry effectiveness will continue to be with you in this new chapter of life and ministry.

It is my privilege to welcome Rev. Steve and Shari Myers to Northern Michigan. They are the new pastoral family at Lake Ann The Rock and Stepping Stones. Rev. Steve is the ministry leader and church-planting pastor and Shari is the new director of Stepping Stones Children's Center. Their last ministry assignment was in South Texas. Prior to that Steve was the pastor of our church in Manhattan, Kansas, where they started a daycare ministry which Shari was the ministry director of for several years. They come to us with a wealth of ministry experience and expertise, including Shari meeting all the state requirements to be the director of the daycare. You will want to get to know this precious couple. Welcome, Steve and Shari!



Rev. Steve & Shari Myers

Welcome to the Kovalchuk Family



The Kovalchuk family is coming from Ukraine to live in Gaylord, Michigan, staying at the Gaylord church parsonage. Their first Sunday will be October 9, 2022. Thank you Gaylord church for your incredible generosity. The church has been busy painting, putting in new flooring, filling their new home with furnishings, stocking the kitchen, etc. The Kovalchuks will be arriving with one suitcase each and nothing else.

Please be praying for the Kovalchuk's and for the Gaylord Church in these days. If you would like to help financially you may send a gift to NMI District Treasurer, Jan Crockett, at PO Box 6822, Traverse City, MI 49696. Make your check payable to NMD NMI and make sure the memo is noted "Ukrainian Family".

The Church of the Nazarene's Thanksgiving Offering for the World Evangelism Fund has been a denominational tradition for more than 90 years. Your gifts create and sustain ministries and make it possible to bring Christ's transformational message of hope and salvation to the world through the Church of the Nazarene. The World Evangelism Fund not only provides ministries on the ground with the monies they need, but the money is used to ensure that legal, federal, and support needs are met so that ministries are as safe as possible and can be sustained for years to come.

LOVE POURED OUT

LIVES TRANSFORMED

Now is the time to order your free "Offering of Thanks" resources for the November offering. Click this [link](#) to access posters, bulletin inserts, envelopes and brochures to help promote the Offering of Thanks in November.

A THANKSGIVING OFFERING STORY

IOWA CHURCH'S SWEET CORN SALE RAISES THOUSANDS FOR MISSIONS

BY DANIEL SPERRY FOR NAZARENE NEWS | 29 JUL 2022

During a Sunday evening service in 1998, Dan Miller walked up to the chalkboard at the front of Burlington First Church of the Nazarene's sanctuary and wrote out a "dream," something he felt God was placing in his heart. After 25 years, the fruit—or vegetable—of that dream has raised nearly \$230,000 for missions projects around the world. That evening in '98 was a "dream session" where members of Burlington First talked about projects and ideas for the church to undertake. Miller, a lifelong farmer, was inspired when he saw that four acres of land surrounding the church had gone up for sale. "I said I think we ought to buy that ground out there and plant sweet corn on it to help pay for the land," Miller said. The church agreed. In the first year, they raised \$4,219, which helped pay off the purchase of the field. Every dollar raised since has gone directly to missions projects around the world.

Burlington First sells its corn annually over a one to two-week period. This year's corn sold at \$6 per dozen ears of corn, raising over \$15,000. Since 1998, they've raised a total of \$227,484 for missions. People from across the country travel to Burlington First in order to participate in the fundraiser while also being allured by the corn's taste. Miller says a man recently told him "I've never tasted corn any better than this." "I don't know what's different about it because the seed that we use, you can buy it right out of a catalog," Miller laughed. "The Lord must put a little extra sugar in that sweet corn or something."

When it's time to sell, Missions President Randy Clark sets up a sales point in front of the church while Miller organizes his teams of volunteers. Miller has two teams: pickers and bucket carriers. The pickers fill the buckets, and the bucket carriers pick up the full buckets while giving the pickers an empty one to fill. Clark's wife, who is the project coordinator for the harvest days, says that they have to use a drive-thru service for buyers to avoid a traffic jam on the road in front of the church.

a dream that raised nearly \$230,000 for missions projects around the world.

In addition to providing funds toward missions projects, church members often visit to see the funds in action. One of the church's first donations and teams went to Trinidad, a place where the missions passion took hold of a few members of the congregation, including Miller's late brother-in-law, Frank Orton. "His passion became contagious," said Jeff Alexander, pastor of Burlington First.

Projects in Kenya, Mozambique, Indonesia, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and areas around the United States have all benefited from the sweet corn. This fall, church members are taking a trip to Cactus, Texas, to work with the compassionate ministry center there. The corn is grown by volunteers, so there are no expenses that eat into the money raised. Alexander says about 60 to 70 percent of church members are involved with harvesting the corn. Miller donates the seed and fertilizer to the church every year.

"That's a real expense," Alexander said. "When you have people who are sacrificially giving, other people are drawn to that. And then they can see the vision and the mission [their efforts] are going towards and they can be inspired by it as well."

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

2022

Oct. 28-30 - Homecoming - ONU

Nov. 10-12 - Church Planter Assessment Weekend

Dec. 3 - Pastor and Family Christmas Gathering - Park Place Hotel - Traverse City

2023

Feb 10-12 Winter Whiteout - Center Lake Bible Camp, Tustin, MI

April 14-15 - District Assembly - Clare COTN

June 9-16 - General Assembly - Indianapolis, Indiana

July 5-9 - Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) Tampa Bay, Florida

July 31-Aug 4 - Children's Camp, Manton Christian Camp

Aug 4-6 - Family Camp Weekend, Manton Christian Camp

October 14-15 - Women's Retreat

General Assembly & Conventions
June 9-16, 2023
Indianapolis

General Assembly



NAZARENE YOUTH CONFERENCE

nyc2023



I am
the way
the truth
and the
life.

John 14:6



Discipleship is a journey of grace with Jesus as our guide and companion.

Christian discipleship helps believers grow in the Lord Jesus Christ as they are equipped by His Holy Spirit who resides within them, to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike.

Resources

Video