

SENDME

NAZARENE  MISSIONS

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LISTEN: IS GOD CALLING ME?

AM I CALLED?

You have picked up this Send Me guide because you are asking the question: “Am I called to be a missionary?” This book is a resource for you to begin wrestling with the answer to that question. You’ve started in a great place!

Throughout these pages, you will find examples of what missions looks like in the Church of the Nazarene, ways you can actively prepare, and an overview of the process to serve as a Nazarene missionary.

As we begin, here are some things you can do today as you continue to discern the call of God in your life.

PRAY

Talking with God is the best place to start. Your conviction about your calling will come from time spent in prayer. Not only will this assure you as you move forward, but it will also help you through the challenging times of ministry in the future.

As you continue to pray, remember that your calling is dynamic like your relationship with God. It will likely change, develop, and expand throughout your lifetime. That is perfectly fine! You may feel that God is calling you to something very specific, or perhaps your sense of calling is rather general. God works in our lives in a variety of ways.

CONNECT

In the process of discernment, it is important to discuss what is going through your mind and heart with those who know you best. These often are trusted mentors, friends, and family members who know you, love you, and are willing to speak truth into your life. Have a conversation with your pastor or Nazarene Missions International (NMI) president at your local church. They will be able to provide you with wisdom and perspective that will shine light onto your calling, as well as walk beside you as you serve in ministry.

RESPOND

Be faithful wherever you find yourself. Continue to live into making Christlike disciples wherever you are. As you seek to discern your calling, God is working in your life to guide you. Hone the skills you will need on the field and discover the type of service you thrive in and enjoy. Since we carry habits with us, this is the perfect time to build healthy patterns and learn self-awareness.



3

GOD, REVEAL TO ME ANYTHING IN MY HEART THAT IS CAUSING ME TO HOLD BACK FROM YOUR CALL.

“Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand.”

ISAIAH 64:8

“Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

PSALM 139:23-24

4

GOD, GIVE ME WISDOM TO MAKE CHOICES THAT ARE PLEASING TO YOU.

“But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.”

JAMES 3:17

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”

1 CORINTHIANS 1:25

5

GOD, TRANSFORM ME TO LIVE IN THE POWER OF YOUR HOLY SPIRIT IN EVERY ASPECT OF MY LIFE.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:8

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

ROMANS 12:2



WHERE THE CHURCH IS NOT YET

There are millions of people who have never experienced the hope of the gospel or the transformational power of a growing relationship with Christ. In the Church of the Nazarene, we believe that God wants everyone to encounter the message of the gospel in order to live transformed lives of holiness. That is why our goal is to engage communities of faith in going where the Church is not yet so that no one is without a holiness witness. But what do we mean by “where the Church is not yet?”


In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells us, as His disciples, “you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” For many of us, the call to make disciples is lived out through encounters with our neighbors in our communities. Other times the call means making an impact on the country in which we find ourselves. As a people, we are also called to “the ends of the earth.”

In our church, God continues to call people to full-time service “to the ends of the earth.” These missionaries are Christlike disciples who have been set apart by the Holy Spirit, prayerfully sent by the church, and affirmed by Nazarene Missions. They diligently carry out the missions work of our church to go where the Church is not yet by living among those who have not yet been engaged by the life-changing message of holiness.



HOW DOES NAZARENE MISSIONS “GO WHERE THE CHURCH IS NOT YET?”

Going to “the ends of the earth” is an overwhelming task, and as individuals we would be hopeless to do it alone. Together, as a part of Nazarene Missions, we are committed to going where the Church is not yet. We participate in this work by **PIONEERING**, **DEVELOPING**, and **RESOURCING** local, interdependent, and sustainable Nazarene churches.



1. WE PIONEER

Pioneering is joining God in His work. We acknowledge that God is already working in the hearts and lives of individuals everywhere we might go. As we follow the leading of His Spirit, we are going to places or people groups where there is little or no witness to the transforming message of holiness. This means that we not only go to see people come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ but we continue to stay to disciple and see them through a journey into God's sanctifying grace.

We cannot always use the same methods wherever we go. We trust the leading of the Holy Spirit and people immersed in the local culture to guide the way the church is started in that place. Sometimes traditional missionaries do this work. Other times we need to be creative in our approach as we navigate local restrictions. Sometimes a church starts through a building and services. Other times—especially in parts of the world where the environment may not be conducive to Christian outreach and church development—it begins with people living intentionally to build relationships and engage their neighbors in new ways. The purpose of pioneering is to prepare the way for the church to be established and grow in that setting.

2. WE DEVELOP

Once the Church of the Nazarene has an established presence in a new place, missionaries and local church leaders focus on developing the church. We do this by helping churches and districts mature through the fostering of emerging local leaders, guiding the community to engage in missions, establishing organizational systems, and intentionally cultivating indigenous theological expression. We are committed to walking alongside people and new churches to ensure that every person and church grows to the full potential God has in store for them.

NAZARENE MISSIONARIES ARE CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES

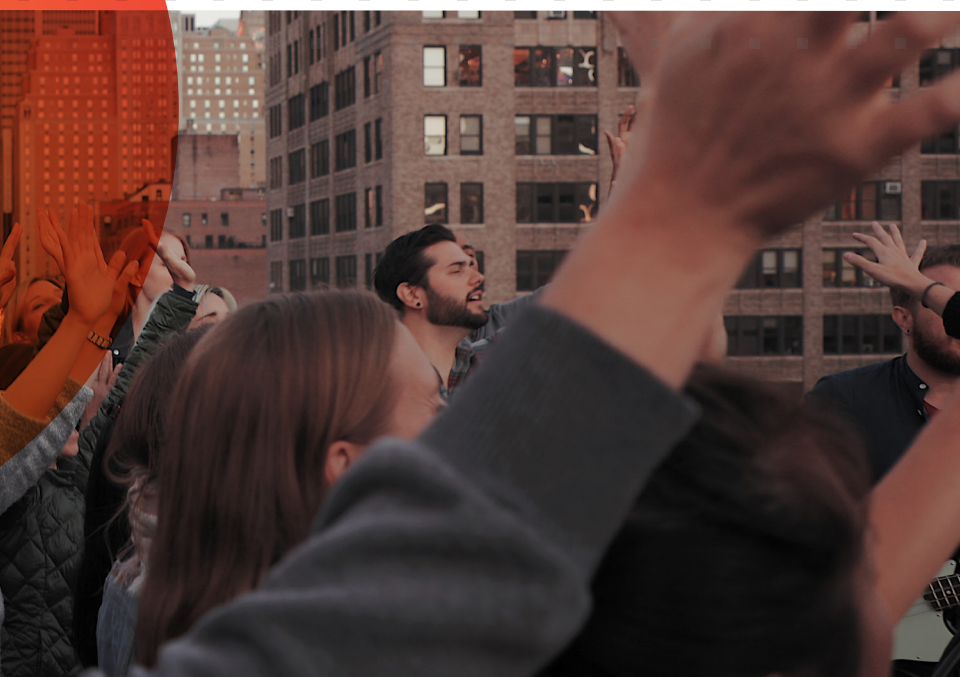
They are sanctified wholly by His Spirit, set apart to do His work. They are called to go into the world and spread His transformative Gospel.

NAZARENE MISSIONARIES ARE PRAYERFULLY SENT OUT BY THE CHURCH

The Church is called to send missionaries where they are needed most. It is through prayer and connection with God's mission that we prepare and deploy those who are called to participate in the movement of the Holy Spirit around the world.

NAZARENE MISSIONARIES SPREAD SCRIPTURAL HOLINESS

As the Holy Spirit prepares the way for transformational holiness, Nazarene Missions sends its missionaries in partnership with local communities to join in God's movement of restoration and peace in hearts and lives.



GROW: HOW DO I PREPARE?

PREPARATION MATTERS

You have responded to God's call. You believe God is leading you to missions. What is the next step? We recognize the need for preparation because that is what we see in the living example of Jesus. Although Jesus' ministry was a mere three years, His 30 years of preparation and listening closely to the whispers of the Spirit increased the overall impact of His ministry.

You might be asking, "Why do I need to prepare? Won't God provide me with the skills I need?" Of course, God is in the business of equipping those who have been called to serve. Often God equips through diligent preparation. We believe that preparation is vital for the sustainability and impact of your ministry. Preparation helps us thrive in ministry by helping us maintain health, wellness, and longevity in ministry on the field or in our home country. When we go into an assignment ill-prepared, we may find ourselves burnt out and frustrated because we do not have the emotional, spiritual, and practical skills necessary to complete our ministry assignment.

We want to walk with you, strengthen you, and equip you to flourish in whatever assignment you find yourself. We want you to thrive, both in your walk with God and in the new culture that you will call home.

In the following pages, we will examine several ways you can begin preparing for missions service today.

THE EFFECTIVE MISSIONARY

Have you ever wondered what skills you will need to become an effective missionary? Nazarene pastors, missionaries, missiologists, and representatives from around the world wanted to create a tool that would help future missionaries to understand better how to prepare for the field. The resulting list is what we call the **Core Elements of Missionary Effectiveness**. We have repeatedly seen how these characteristics are key in the lives of faithful and effective missionaries. We encourage you to read each core element below and use the list on the corresponding page to keep track of your goals and practical ways you would like to grow in each area.

1 SPIRITUAL MATURITY

A missionary should have a mature and growing relationship with Christ and participate in personal spiritual disciplines.

You can practice this element today! In fact, it is essential that you do. Personal spiritual disciplines include prayer, Bible study, and fasting, as well as many others. We are all unique, so all of us will be drawn to different spiritual disciplines that speak to us and bring us life. Whatever it is, start the practice now. These habits will stick with you and strengthen your ministry once you begin your assignment.

2 CLARITY OF CALL

A missionary should be able to articulate his or her call to serve in ministry and how it relates to missions. They should demonstrate a strong call to serve others. This articulation may present itself as a known plan for the future or as a desire to follow God's leading in the immediate future.

Do you remember when you first felt God was leading you to missions? What was that like? Write down your experience(s), noting all the details you remember. Having a solid and confident understanding of your call will help you to continue pressing forward when difficulties arise.

3 RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

A missionary should demonstrate the ability to maintain healthy relationships and effectively resolve both personal and professional conflict. It is important to possess good interpersonal skills to demonstrate Christlike character in all interactions.

Whether at home or in our ministry assignments, conflict always seems to arise. This does not have to be negative when we know how to appropriately respond and handle conflict. Think about the different relationships you will develop as a missionary (local people, other missionaries and leaders, extended family, sending church, etc.). What types of conflict might arise in these relationships? How can you be prepared when it does?

4 HOLISTIC WELLNESS

A missionary should be in good physical health to handle the strain of living in another culture. Maintaining strong psycho-social health is also important in effectively handling stress.

Improvement for you in this area could be as simple as eating healthy and exercising. It also could include intentionally seeking out people in your life with whom you can process life's challenges in a healthy way or intentionally practicing Sabbath.

For those with a chronic condition, such illnesses may not prevent you from service if the ministry assignment allows you to continue any medication or health regimen required for your wellbeing. However, there are some health concerns that could hinder you from serving as a missionary.

CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE AND ADAPTABILITY

A missionary should possess a flexible spirit and a willingness to be adaptable, recognizing the differences you will face living within another culture. It is important to have experienced significant time within another culture to recognize the need for flexibility, adaptability, and the ability to appreciate and value aspects of other cultures. Development of language skills is also key in contextualizing yourself to another culture.

You don't have to wait until you become a missionary to practice cross-cultural adaptability. Are there people from other cultural groups with whom you might make friends? Perhaps you can join or volunteer in a multicultural ministry at your church. Participate in a Work & Witness trip to another country. The possibilities are endless!

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

A missionary candidate should be fully engaged in a local Church of the Nazarene. Having first-hand experience in understanding how the local church functions is important before working with churches in other world areas. It is also key in your development as a missionary to have ministry experience in the local church, in working with pastors, and in developing a heart for outreach through the local church.

Perhaps you are already involved in your local church. If not, a good place to start is with your pastor. He or she can connect you to a place where you can thrive. Be sure to express your passions and calling in ministry. They can help you grow in your call and possibly provide leadership opportunities that would give you experience.

7 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A missionary should have practical experience in the career field in which they sense a call to serve. It is important for the candidate to have the necessary training and experience to bring professional expertise to the field.

As a missionary, there are so many avenues of service. Whatever your particular skill or experience, it is likely that God can use it as you serve. Continue to develop those skills and seek discernment and creativity for how God might use them.

8 EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

A missionary should have the necessary educational background to match the ministry in which he or she wants to serve. If a candidate is looking to serve in church development, it is also important to be ordained by the Church of the Nazarene. Likewise, you might research educational degrees or technical degrees corresponding to your call.

Educational preparation will look different for each missionary. Typically, educational preparation will include professional education as well as theological and missiological education. Your professional education will naturally correspond with your own skills and experience and desires for ministry. It should also include some theological and missiological training that will inform your service and broaden your worldview.

GROW



THEOLOGICAL COHERENCE

A missionary should be able to understand and articulate the biblical foundation of their Christian faith. They also should demonstrate an understanding and ability to live out and communicate the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene.

There are many resources to help you dive deeper into the beliefs of the Church of the Nazarene. A great place to start is with *Nazarene Essentials*, available for free download at nazarene.org/essentials. Some other resources include *What is a Nazarene?* by Wes Tracy and Stan Ingersol and *Articles of Faith - a small group study: What Nazarenes Believe*, both of which are available at thefoundrypublishing.com.

MISSION-EVANGELISM FOUNDATION

A missionary should have a strong belief that every Christian has the responsibility to go and make disciples in the nations. This should be evident in the believer's current ministry and a natural part of every aspect of their lives.

Pray that God would renew your vision to see opportunities to share Christ with those around you. This disposition will become more and more your habit as you practice living a life of incarnational ministry and witness to those without Christ.



1 GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

A missionary should have experiences in their lives that enable them to have a global perspective to contextualize what they see, hear, say, and do. They should be able to recognize the pitfalls of ethnocentrism and to balance the reality of their own biases within the culture where they serve.

Practice this perspective shift by reaching out to Christians you know around the world. Have conversations with them on a regular basis about what they believe are the greatest issues facing our church today and how we might approach them. Keep an open mind and remember to ask questions. Another exercise might be to explore options in your community for cross-cultural interactions. You would be surprised at the opportunities available once you start looking.

2 FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

A missionary should demonstrate a practical ability to handle finances responsibly. It should be evident in their personal finances, as well as any business or ministry experience that involves handling money or budgets.

A great way to start practicing this is with a personal budget. There are many resources available to help you learn more about money management. Practice keeping track of where your money goes and saving instead of immediately spending. Another place to start is by engaging in the spiritual practice of tithing. If you have debts, try to pay them off as much as possible to be a good steward of God's resources.

YOUR SUPPORT NETWORK

When a Nazarene missionary moves to the field, they are not able to take all the people who they love with them, but that does not mean that their family, friends, and church do not continue to support them in ministry and life. Missionaries continue to build and develop relationships within a support network that encourages them through prayer, finances, and friendship throughout their time on the field.

As a Nazarene missionary, your support network consists of four primary groups.

LOCAL CHURCH

Your local church forms the basis of your support network. These are the people who know you and love you deeply. They are the people who have journeyed with you through the discovery of your call. In many cases, these are the people who have known you for years and are familiar with how God has been working in your life throughout that time.

A local church that sends a missionary is sending out one of their very own for the sake of the Kingdom. They want to partner with that missionary in any way they can. This includes helping the missionary prepare for the field mentally, spiritually, financially, and emotionally. It means supporting the missionary on the field through prayer, finances, encouragement, and love. It means engaging in the ministry of the missionary by supporting projects, serving through Work & Witness, and contributing to our missions foundation through World Evangelism giving.



HOME DISTRICT

We are all the Body of Christ. Your home district is a beautiful example of the network of churches that we benefit from as Nazarenes. The district is a multiplication of your local church support as churches from across your district are also excited to support you and engage in ministry with you. Just as you can expand your ministry by partnering with your district, churches across your district are multiplying their ministry through you.

PEOPLE ON THE FIELD

The people you meet on the field are wonderful resources to missionaries. Local people can offer support by helping you adapt to new surroundings and make relational connections. While you are on the field, you are not alone because your new neighbors, local pastors, and district leaders are excited to help you learn about their culture and become your onsite family. Take time to build relationships where you are. Every relationship starts person to person, family to family, community to community.

GLOBAL CHURCH

The global Church of the Nazarene is thrilled to partner with your local church and district to send and support you as you serve. Not only do we have the experience of serving hundreds of missionaries annually, but like you, we are passionate about bringing the gospel to those places where the Church is not yet. Throughout your time of service, we welcome questions, concerns, and feedback on any topic that arises in your missionary service. In addition to providing you with resources and tools that will help, we also want to connect you with missionaries and global leaders around the world.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW LONG DOES THE SENDING PROCESS TAKE?

The length of time it takes to send a missionary varies greatly from person to person. For some, the process takes less than a year; for others it takes much longer. There are several factors that go into sending an individual or couple as missionaries, including calling, gifts, development, experience, and training. The timeline can also be affected by the type of needs on the field and their urgency. For example, if a candidate's skills match an urgent need on the field, they may go through the process rather quickly. On the other hand, particularly for people called to long-term service, development and training may be a priority and can take several years.

IS THERE TRAINING TO BETTER EQUIP ME TO BECOME A MISSIONARY?

Nazarene Missions equips each missionary according to his or her specific needs. Training varies based on your desired length of service and given assignment. We require all missionaries, regardless of length of service, to attend an Explore event. This event provides you with cross-cultural insights, as well as an opportunity to meet our staff. Additional role-specific training will be provided once you are placed in an assignment and before you are deployed.

CAN I SERVE IF I HAVE DEBT?

While debt is certainly a concern, there is hope. We encourage you to do all that you can to reduce your debt before you are assigned. However, we also recognize that in many contexts, debt is a reality we face. We will help you consider solutions that will enable you to serve as soon as possible.

HOW OLD DO I HAVE TO BE TO BECOME A MISSIONARY?

While a Nazarene missionary must be 18 years of age to serve in their own assignment, there are many opportunities for service before that time, including Work & Witness and other group experiences.

AM I CALLED TO BE A MISSIONARY?

Nazarene Missions has many FREE digital resources to help you begin wrestling with the answer to that question. From examples of what missions look like in the Church of the Nazarene, to ways you can actively prepare as you continue to discern the call of God in your life.



Find a place to serve:
opportunities.nazarene.org



Send Me resources:
nazarene.org/sendme



Nazarene Resource Center:
nazarene.org/resource-center



SEND ME

NAZARENE  MISSIONS

PRAY FOR A NEW GENERATION OF MISSIONARIES!

SPIRITUAL MATURITY

Lord, we intercede for this generation and ask that they would have a warm relationship with you. We pray that you would give them a desire to study and apply the Word. Teach them the power of prayer. Shape them to be a generation of Christ-followers who are relentlessly faithful to you.

(Joshua 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-17)

CLARITY OF CALL

Father, we pray that you would teach our young people to clearly hear your voice. Reveal to them how you have equipped, gifted, and called them for the purpose of making disciples in every nation.

(1 Samuel 3:7-10; Isaiah 6:8)

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT

Father, lead this generation to serve faithfully in their local churches. Develop a heart within them for Spirit-led ministry and outreach.

(Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 4:11-16)

MISSION-EVANGELISM FOUNDATION

Lord, cultivate within this generation a strong conviction that they too are called to make disciples in every nation.

(Mark 16:15; Acts 2:42-47)

RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

Father, teach them how to maintain healthy relationships. Show them how to resolve conflict so they are able to foster unity and peace.

(Matthew 18:15-22; Ephesians 4:15-16)

HOLISTIC HEALTH

Lord, we pray that you would bless this generation with good physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health. Through finding wholeness in you, equip them for the stress that can come in missions.

(Philippians 4:7; 3 John 1:2)

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Jesus, we ask that you would guide the next generation of missionaries to be wise and faithful stewards. Give them a perspective of your Lordship of all resources and enable them to responsibly pursue your call.

(Romans 13:7-8; Philippians 4:19)

CROSS-CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Lord, give our young people a great appreciation for different cultures, languages, and world-views. Open doors of friendship and ministry with people who need you.

(Mark 16:15; 1 Corinthians 9:20-22)

THEOLOGY

Oh God, give them a love for your Word. Put the right mentors, preaching, teaching, and resources in their path to shape their theological understanding.

(1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:15)

SERVANT LEADERSHIP

Father, develop in young adults a heart to serve locally and globally. Use them to create a movement of servant-leaders in their local churches, home communities, and on the mission field.

(Matthew 25:35-40; Romans 12:1)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

God, we ask that you would clearly guide young adults as they select career fields. Use all of their professional experiences and training to equip them for making disciples in every nation.

(Acts 18:1-3; Colossians 3:23-24)

EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION

Lord, equip young people for every good work. Prepare them with education and experience to be effective ministers for Christ.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17; Colossians 2:6-7)



opportunities.nazarene.org | sendme@nazarene.org

(913) 577-2959

Find Your Missionary Opportunity!

opportunities.nazarene.org

The website makes it easy for you to explore potential missionary service with the Church of the Nazarene. It is designed to help you find positions that suit your interests and gifts. Positions are available on every region with a variety of service lengths.



Search by:

Service Length

Ministry Type

Region

World Area



Nazarene Missions is making it possible to mobilize Nazarenes from every country!

Have you ever wondered if you are called to missions?

God calls us to service in missions through various *people* and *ways*!

Missionaries

- Pastors
- Parents
- Mentors
- Scripture
- Prayer
- Sermons

God calls all of us differently!



CERTAINTY

When God speaks directly to you or through His Word, a sermon, or a testimony.



AVAILABILITY

When you are willing to do anything and go anywhere to share Christ with others and make a difference in the world.



INTEREST

When God confirms that missions is for you through experiences with other cultures or through personal interests.



OPPORTUNITY

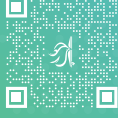
When God shows you an opportunity that can be filled with your God-given gifts and abilities, and others see it too!

All these paths may lead you to serve for:

- Days, months, years, a lifetime!
- For a sabbatical
- To complete a project
- Until leaders are developed

Contact us with questions at

sendme@nazarene.org



opportunities.nazarene.org