

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

19 April 2023

Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Mesoamerica, South America, USA/Canada Regions



“Additional Areas”

Work in “Additional Areas” began in 1994 and continues to the present. These “Additional Areas” are located on several of the regions where the Church of the Nazarene has works. These areas tend to be resistant to the gospel, which means that the open proclamation of the gospel can be restricted, requiring creative approaches for ministry and missions. They may also be areas where the Church of the Nazarene is officially registered with the government, but whose political, social, or religious environment may not always be conducive to Christian outreach and church development. Often, we connect specific languages with specific countries on which we are focused. However, in this instance, the language that matters most is the language of grace and love, sharing hope in Christ. Regardless of the political, economic, social, or religious circumstances, the Church of the Nazarene is present to demonstrate the unconditional love of God to persons of all ages, living in every kind of human condition.



15,603 members



133 fully organized churches; 116 not yet organized church



106 District Licensed and 16 Ordained Ministers

PRAYER



- Pray that those who serve in these “Additional Areas” are kept safe from the actions of those who seek to intimidate or hamper the work.
 - Pray for increased grace and wisdom for those who are regularly called to navigate sensitive situations.
 - Pray that persons serving in these “Additional Areas” may be peacemakers in very stressful and often threatening environments.
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PRAISE



- We praise God for His Spirit’s leadership into new areas, opening doors of opportunity to introduce the Good News of Jesus and the message of scriptural holiness in contexts where hope and wholeness are most needed.
- We praise God that He continues to call and equip those who, with unique gifts, can serve Him in these “Additional Areas.”
- We praise God in the midst of adversity, that He is ever present and giving guidance and peace to His children.



A Day In The Life Of...

- I begin my day with prayer to my God for the unknowns that this day will bring.
- I spend some time with my family and call my closest contacts to make sure all is well in their lives as a new day of opportunity to live in this 'special context' dawns; and that they are at peace...we always pray for the peace of one another.
- I have to go to the small shops along the street nearby to buy what I can for food and other necessities (while those items might still be available).
- The key in this kind of work and life is building relationships, so as I go shop to shop, I try to spend time with the shopkeeper or with other neighbors I might meet there.
- There is some disquiet in the atmosphere today. I believe it is due to the devaluation of our local currency, which I noticed was limiting my purchase power in the shops. The tension seems to be linked to political unrest related to this financial hiccup. When this kind of atmosphere rises, I need to stay vigilant and communicate with my family and close contacts each hour.
- I know that I will only have Internet from around 13:00 (1:00 pm) local time until around 16:00 (4:00 pm) local time, so I am making my way home to catch up on emails and other communications, both inside and outside the country.
- I need to remind myself, and my family and close contacts, that we must be careful in the words and phrases we choose to use in our communications. This is a critical security issue, and while some in our home country do not understand it and want to know more than we are at liberty to share, we cannot explain further unless we do so while visiting our home country when we come back to visit.
- Discipline and prayer is so important to our work, so I find that I need to pause and pray between every activity or encounter, asking my God to fill me with courage, insight, wisdom, grace, love, and a lot of patience. He always seems to answer with what I need when I need it!

- I spend time working on my next “listening and telling” get-together and try to find the right words (both in my language and in my adopted language) so that I understand well and communicate clearly.
- I/we know that there are some concerns by “majority” neighbors about why we are here. This adds to stresses related to intimidation by religious powers, and daily we recognise the need for more prayer and more specific prayer. We cannot talk about this in detail, but I am trusting that my God will prompt His children to pray, even if they do not understand the situation or have wide knowledge of these issues.
- I had a wonderful conversation with one of these neighbors today, who asked me “why I always seem to be so positive and willing to stop and help him when he needs an extra pair of hands and feet.” I am reminded that here, I am the hands and feet of One Who helps us all bear one another’s burdens.
- I picked up my children from their school and found that they had some new friends with them. We walked home together and talked about these new relationships they were developing in their young lives. It is good to see them coming out of themselves a bit more as the days go by.



- At dinner, we shared a lovely local meal—a favorite in our community, and one for which we are acquiring a taste—and talked about our day and all the good things that had happened. Our youngest was a little frightened by the sound of gunfire midday, but we assured him that we are safe and gave him some simple instructions on what to do in such cases. I also reminded him Who is always watching over him! He smiled...
- We played a game before the electricity was cut off for the night (around 20:30 or 8:30 pm) and lit some candles and tried to finish our game in vain. Finally, we prayed together before going to bed.
- We know that we are not alone here!
- While each day has its challenges, each also has its delights in this place that is becoming home to us—a place among a people for whom we are developing a deep love.

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to support this kind of work? For more information, click [here](#). But, most important pray, even for those who cannot be named, in places that cannot be identified; and trust God to ACT there.



See the past archive of NMI Central publications [here](#).



17001 Prairie Star Pkwy
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

