

REPORT TO THE 2011 GENERAL BOARD
SUNDAY SCHOOL & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT
Woodie J. Stevens, Global Director

It is a privilege to present my annual report to the 2011 meeting of the General Board of the Church of the Nazarene.

The mission of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) is to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifetime of making Christlike disciples in the nations. SDMI leaders serve our compelling mission with a sense of vision and passion for leading boys and girls, students, and adults to be productive disciples of Jesus. In turn, as disciples of Jesus they are helping others be faithful, fruitful disciples of The Christ.

The purpose of SDMI around the world is fourfold: (1) to develop relationships with unreached people until they are Christlike disciples, members of the church, and making Christlike disciples; (2) to teach the Word of God until children, youth, and adults are saved, sanctified wholly, and maturing in Christian experience; (3) to help Christians grow spiritually, involving them in evangelism, Christian education, and disciple making; and (4) to encourage children, youth, and adults to enroll in Sunday School/small groups and faithfully participate.

As SDMI director, I am responsible to provide general coordination and support for discipleship ministries within the Church of the Nazarene around the globe. Biblical knowledge and understanding by every person associated with the church is a foundational force that drives our efforts. Our Sunday Schools and small groups serve as global avenues for developing biblically rooted followers of Christ. We seek to encourage, educate, and equip local church leaders for the mission.

It has been my privilege to serve as the SDMI director with J.K. Warrick as jurisdictional general superintendent and the Board of General Superintendents, the Global Ministry Team, the Global Ministries and Services Committee of the General Board, the Global Mission Focus team, the USA/Canada Mission team, SDMI regional coordinators, SDMI department staff, the NPH Board of Directors, the Religious Association Against Pornography, and the WordAction and Nazarene Publishing House leadership team. I have also served alongside a wonderfully gifted team in the SDMI office.

▪ **GLOBAL SDMI COUNCIL** - The Global SDMI regional coordinators met at the GMC in connection with CANG and three times via video conference calls. It is thrilling to simultaneously see, hear, and talk with Daphne Mathebula, Africa SDMI coordinator in Johannesburg; Melvin Rigsby, Asia Pacific SDMI coordinator in Singapore; Monte Cyr, Caribbean interim SDMI coordinator, in

Miami; Barry Burnell, Eurasia SDMI coordinator, in Schaffhausen; Ramon Sierra, MAC SDMI coordinator in Mexico City; and Robin Radi, South America SDMI coordinator in Pilar, Argentina. Each of these meetings provided opportunities for global collaboration, resource information, and reports from each region as to the advancement of SDMI ministries around the world.

▪ **FINANCES** - The last two years have been significantly impacted by the economic downturn and subsequent budget reductions. The 2009 SDMI World Evangelism Fund (WEF) allocation was \$1,302,106.00. The 2010 SDMI World Evangelism Fund was \$1,113,805.00. The Nazarene Publishing House supplemental fund dropped in half to \$125,000.00 with the remaining \$125,000.00 to be funded in 2011. The 2011 SDMI allocated WEF funds are 1,026,000.00. SDMI has diligently monitored its expenses and conducted all transactions within the parameters of the approved budget. Personnel costs have been reduced through attrition, salary freezes, job realignments, and benefit reductions. Programs have been reduced, modified, or deleted. Every ministry position and expenditure has been reviewed and evaluated by the Senior Leadership Team at the Global Ministry Center and the SDMI leaders. The focus of our efforts has been to do more with less. Future viability of the department is dependent upon adapting to the new economic realities around the world and at the Global Ministry Center.

▪ **ENGAGE THE WORD** - In partnership with the American Bible Society and Nazarene Publishing House, SDMI is launching a three year global emphasis called, "Engage the Word." Each fall, through 2013, a 40-day scriptural engagement emphasis will equip and challenge every home and local church to enter daily into the presence of God through prayer and Bible reading. Meaningful encounters with God's Word on a daily basis profoundly shape the world view and behavioral choices of our people. Our goal is to inspire and equip Nazarenes to take the Bible off the shelf and immerse their hearts and minds in God's life changing Word.

▪ **SECOND MILE AWARD** - This recognition of service above and beyond the normal has been well received and widely used this past year. Through the SDMI department 91 certificates and 22 award trophies have been presented to men and women who have given themselves selflessly - doing more than was expected or required. Thank God for dedicated, generous, and fruitful disciples who serve Him and His Church.

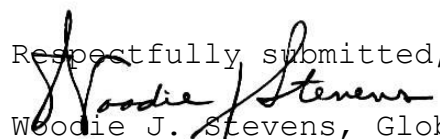
▪ **STATISTICS** - The year 2010 saw the introduction of a new Global Annual Pastor's Report form. A simple one-page, two-sided report has streamlined the information available to us. Some of the former comparisons we have made in the past are no longer available to us.

	Average Weekly Worship	Discipleship Responsibility	Discipleship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	Discipleship Group Attendance
Africa	334,340	240,580	152,660	131,756	2,000
Asia-Pacific	69,928	62,446	39,365	31,456	2,076
Caribbean	96,603	106,101	76,517	74,068	3,995
Eurasia	106,450	40,319	46,199	32,937	6,948
MAC	109,152	114,589	107,203	59,009	20,511
South America	150,082	135,207	118,087	86,532	24,491
USA/Canada	514,215	788,085	394,834	287,586	131,891
GLOBAL TOTAL	1,380,770	1,487,327	934,865	703,344	191,912

▪ **ON-LINE DISCIPLESHIP** - SDMI in partnership with Global Media Outreach, a subsidiary of Campus Crusade, has launched a worldwide internet evangelism/discipleship opportunity for Nazarene Sunday Schools and small groups. Every day two million people go online looking for God. Global Media Outreach has 104 websites in 12 different languages that offer a simple gospel presentation. Over 40,000 people every day respond indicating they have received Christ as their Lord. SDMI wants to be online helping people find Jesus. Through our Sunday School classes we will raise up thousands of Nazarenes who will disciple these new believers and connect them with the Church. SDMI is aggressively recruiting Sunday School classes, teachers, and leaders to become online disciple makers. As of this date we have 28 online disciple makers who are responding to nearly 1,200 new contacts every month.

▪ **THE MASTER'S PLAN DISCIPLESHIP SUMMITS** - SDMI partnered with local churches in Cali, Colombia (House of Prayer), Miami, Florida (Bethany), and Bloomington, Illinois (First) in providing three Discipleship Summits based on the Master's Plan. A website and materials are being developed for the benefit of those interested in implementing this effective discipleship strategy.

I want to express appreciation to Nazarene Publishing House, WordAction Publishing, and Beacon Hill Press led by Hardy Weathers, Mark Brown, Eric Bryant, Bonnie Perry, and Merritt Nielson. Their partnership with SDMI is vital to the wide range of our responsibilities. Their commitment to provide holiness, resource materials for all ages is pervasive and consistent. It is a joy to work with them. In 2010, it has been my privilege to serve the church in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Mexico, Peru, India, Canada, and the USA promoting the call to holiness, Sunday School, and discipleship ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

 Woodie J. Stevens, Global Director
 Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International

ADULT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**Larry R. Morris, Global Director**

As director of Adult Ministries International (AMI), it is my privilege to bring this report to the Global Ministries Services Committee of the General Board.

Undaunted, by the challenge of the financial recession, your AMI team has tirelessly served the Church of the Nazarene through the design, development, and participation of a number of needed programs, services, and ministry initiatives. I am proud of their sacrifice and their mission mindedness.

This year has seen a significant growth in our global ministry and partnerships. A consistent and valued global partnership is with the SDMI regional coordinators and ministries leaders who have helped us become better acquainted common ministry challenges, test resources and products in other cultural and language settings, and evaluate how to best use limited ministry resources for the global church.

It continues to be a great privilege to serve the Church of the Nazarene through SDMI. It is an honor to oversee the work of the AMI staff and be a member of the SDMI leadership team. Each has dedicated their lives to provide inspiration, information, training, and resources for the development of Christlike disciples within the Church of the Nazarene around the world.

SINGLE/YOUNG ADULT/WOMEN'S MINISTRIES - Dr. Linda Hardin,
coordinator

► **Single and Young Adult Ministries (SAM and YAM):** Single Adult Ministries continues to undergo transformation. The Nazarene Fellowship of Single Adults (NFSA) continues to support the creation and development of ministries which address the needs of single adults at the local, district, and regional levels. A first step toward achieving their mission was the creation of a survey to confirm current opinions about single adults and their church involvement. Findings are posted on the Adult Ministries Connection (AMC) website.

Ministry to young adults who are leaving the Church of the Nazarene continues to be a significant concern. Efforts by YAM to understand and address this concern include: research, networking, surveying, promoting events which encourage dialog, and a shared mission.

To meet the needs of young adults for holiness Bible studies, YAM and WM have combined efforts to create *Mor2Lif*. Targeted at women ages 25-35, the video, outline, and Bible study will be released in 2011.

► **Women's Ministries (WM):** The Women's Ministries Council focuses on calling women to live as true disciples of Christ.

This year, women's conferences supporting this focus occurred in three world areas: Africa (Gauteng, South Africa), Mexico and Central America (Oaxaca, Mexico), and USA/Canada (Ft. Wayne, Indiana). Highlights of these three events are posted on the AMC website.

Women's Ministries General Council continues to explore ways to educate and minister to those whose lives are being exploited by human trafficking and pornography through their partnership with PureHope.

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES - Dr. David & Lisa Frisbie; Dr. James Pettitt, coordinators
Family Life Ministries and the Strategic Marriage Initiative, encourages family health through education, training, and development of resources for denominational use. To this end, the Frisbies and Jim Pettitt continue to serve as presenters and trainers for marriage retreats, workshops, SDMI conventions, and gatherings for pastors and lay leaders.

The Frisbies are involved in a multi-year project in Europe to train pastors and lay leaders in basic principles of marriage and premarital counseling and are responding to requests from Germany, the Netherlands, Romania, Kosovo, Ireland, and Portugal. Dr. Pettitt continues to train pastors and ministry leaders in the use of Prepare/Enrich, a valuable curriculum for premarital counseling.

Beyond the efforts of our Marriage and Family coordinators are careful research and a strong partnership with Clergy Development. The 2009 survey revealed a growing need for additional support and monitoring of marriages. The Board of General Superintendants has requested that the Strategic Marriage Initiative continue through 2019, helping to promote Christ-centered homes, marriages, and families.

This year the Spanish version of *Making a Marriage* has been distributed with significant results. A report of activities on the South America region is posted on the AMC website.

MEN'S MINISTRIES - W. Marshall Duke, coordinator

This year Men's Ministries has pursued three goals for men through events, publications, and partnerships: (1) each man will be an active participant in a small group; (2) each man will be a member of an accountability group; and (3) each man will, annually, participate in a special men's ministry event.

Men's Ministries continues to partner with other ministries to educate, train, and resource men and men's groups by speaking to Nazarene ministries students regarding the pervasiveness of pornography; exploring the establishment of a men's ministry in the CIS; and raising of funds for the Bellomy Project NMF)

Updates on these ministries projects are posted on the AMC website.

PRIME TIME MINISTRIES - Rev. Darrel Rotz, coordinator

Through our new Prime Time Ministries coordinator, Prime Time continues its efforts to support and resource senior adults. The October 2011 Prime Time retreat will emphasize evangelism, mentoring, and discipling. Senior adults will have the opportunity to be trained as online missionaries through a partnership with SDMI and Global Media Outreach.

CONTINUING LAY TRAINING (CLT) - Rev. John Comstock, coordinator
CLT continues to expand globally, delivering needed resources to anyone accessing the worldwide web. Through CLT, members of the Church of the Nazarene are being influenced by a holiness world view and the call to Christlike discipleship. Sandro Jose Hayakawa Cunha, Brazil, shares: *I'd like to thank CLT. It was a great experience to join brothers and sisters who are working hard for the kingdom of God around the world.*

This year, CLT has offered 21 online (webinar) and conference call training sessions with over 1,100 people participating with participation increasing. CLT webinar participation has included people from Europe, Africa, South America, and the Caribbean. Milly Ibanda, Kenya, reports: *I want to thank you for encouraging me to take my classes online. Also, I was happy to attend the webinar. It was good for me.*

Through our partnership with NYI, CLT is hosting the *Youth Ministry Academy*. This online course provides an excellent resource for lay ministers and others who care about ministering to youth. Upon request we are working with our African region to translate the modules into Portuguese and French.

In just three years, over 10,000 Lay Ministry Certificate courses have been completed. This year we completed the translation of the modules into Spanish and are pursuing translation in French and Portuguese. Erika Chaves Rivera, Costa Rica, writes: *I received my certificate of completion and my family and pastor is very happy. I wish to complete other courses. I'm glad for your ministry.*

In partnership with NPH and other GMC ministry entities, CLT offers an annual Denomination-Wide Study designed for use in small groups. Available in English and Spanish, the 2011 book, *How We Got Our Bible*, is supported by the Board of General Superintendants. Free online resources include a leader's guide, handouts, and a PowerPoint presentation.

The prisoner Bible study program continues to grow. This year we processed 1,753 Bible studies. Letters received validate that lives are being transformed by the power of God's Word.

Additional CLT online resources include 22 short (15-20 minute) educational modules for specific ministry topics and concerns. These modules offer wisdom and advice for local church leaders. Zandile Mavuso, Swaziland, writes: *The CLT website has all the tools a worker may need to do God's work. We had a wonderful lesson with about 30 people in attendance.*

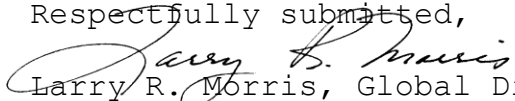
CLT continues to strengthen lay education around the world by the translation of relevant materials, creation of online discipleship resources, and expanding online training.

CONCLUSION

I am humbled and challenged by the opportunity to minister with the excellent GMC team. I am thankful for the passionate leadership of SDMI Director Dr. Woodie Stevens, partnership with our new CMI Director Leslie Hart, and the tireless support of the AMI staff and my assistant, Shirley Smith.

It is a joy to serve our Savior and it is my prayer that our efforts to help each Nazarene embrace their mission in Christ will bring a smile of approval from our Heavenly Father.

Respectfully submitted,


Larry R. Morris, Global Director
Adult Ministries International

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Leslie M. Hart, Global Director

It is a privilege to share my first report as the Global Director for Children's Ministries International. What an adventure this year has been. As I began to pray with some anxiety about joining the GMC staff God challenged me to look back at my life to see the miracles wrought by His redeeming hand. Philippians 2:13 reminded me that it is He who works in me to will and to act according to his good purpose. His constant love and goodwill have not waivered. God has provided for my every need; He has my future as He had my past. And so it is for His church—our church—in these challenging days. His goodwill toward the Church of the Nazarene has not changed. He is faithful and will continue His work in and through us as we remain faithful to our call, proclaiming the present-tense reality of His all-transforming grace.

The mission of Children's Ministries International is to partner with those who minister with children by encouraging, educating, and equipping. Our role is to lead and partner with the local church as they reach, evangelize, and disciple children. We articulate a global vision "Connecting a New Generation with Jesus Christ, giving children HOPE & WHOLENESS

and opportunities for WORSHIP & MINISTRY" implemented through local church ministry.

Children's Ministries International is currently structured around three primary areas of responsibility: Christian education, evangelism, and discipleship. Although CMI was without a director for nearly three months, Lynda Boardman's leadership team carried the mission and vision through transition without interruption—a sterling tribute to their dedicated professionalism and calling. Here are just a few of the highlights from each area.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Beula Postlewait, coordinator

► **Nazarene Schools:** 343 Nazarene schools in USA/Canada served 31,691 children, with 441 schools in other world regions serving 49,770 students, for a combined worldwide total of 784 Nazarene schools serving 81,461 students.

► **Nazarene Educators Worldwide (N.E.W.):** The first statewide E3 Conference was held in Tempe, Arizona, and will serve as a model for future statewide and district N.E.W. conferences. N.E.W. currently has 225 members. The advisory council, chaired by James Upchurch, consists of Cindy Alsip, Tammy Condon, Marilyn Dominick, Lance Howard, Brad King, James Kiper, Becky Ramsey, Midge Simpson, Esther Swink, Janine Wilkins, and Jan Wilton.

DISCIPLESHIP - Jenni Montebianco, coordinator

► **Children's Bible Quizzing:** For the first time ever, Children's Bible Quizzing materials were released in Global English, Spanish, French, and Portuguese translations (1 & 2 Samuel)! Korean is soon to follow. At this time Genesis and Matthew are also ready for translation! In 2009-2010 approximately 6,200 children in nearly 1,000 churches participated in the USA alone.

► **Kidz First Award:** Local churches and districts presented 25 awards honoring excellence in Children's Ministries.

► **Nazarene Children's Leadership Network (NCLN):** October 4-7, in Grove City, Ohio, the *ignite! Conference* was attended by 147 Children's Ministries leaders from the USA/Canada. The current board of directors, chaired by Andy Ervin, consists of Jenn Ballenger, Leon Blanchette, Pennye Duncan, Andrew Foster, Joy Gammill, Phil Hause, Marcus LeBaron, Jenni Montebianco, David Mowry, Caley Spangenberg, Margaret Tyler, and Ken Wheeler.

EVANGELISM - Dan Harris, coordinator

► **Mid-Week Ministry:** 134,890 children worldwide participated in Nazarene mid-week ministry, including Caravan which distributed 278 Bresee awards. Participation by region: Africa 47,378; Asia-Pacific 4,097; Caribbean 49,931; Eurasia 1,238; MAC 5,076; South America 1,881; and USA/Canada 25,289.

► **Mission Offering:** The 2009-10 Kids Reaching Kids Mission Offering raised \$331,565.80 for *The Hope Project*, amounting to a 7% increase over last year's offering, \$76,005 of which was distributed as follows: \$35,000 for Asia-Pacific literature and discipleship programs, \$20,000 in VBS grants, \$16,505 in Touch-a-Life grants, and \$4,500 in child sponsorships.

► **Vacation Bible School:** 2010 worldwide VBS enrollment was 389,218. Regional participation: Africa 27,634; Asia-Pacific 21,063; Caribbean 22,094; Eurasia 16,991; MAC 62,209; South America 59,243; and USA/Canada 179,984. The 2011 VBS theme, *Mission To M.A.R.S. (Meet A Risen Savior)*, features Bible stories of Paul's ministry.

Here are but a few of many world region highlights:

AFRICA - 13th Annual Kinderfees (Children's Festival) was held in Rustenburg, South Africa, where 804 children and 148 volunteer workers participated throughout the week. More than 200 children received Christ as their personal Savior.

ASIA-PACIFIC - Children were at the forefront of strategy meetings as leaders considered how the church can keep children a vital part of mission efforts and the importance of empowering field and local leadership to set direction and goals that truly impact children, families, and communities. At the Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) in greater Manila, Philippines, 800 children attended rallies during a creative, hands-on Children's Ministry workshop. Sixty-seven children's workers were trained & given opportunity to practice new skills in a children's rally attended by 250 at Taytay First Church of the Nazarene. Recognizing the need to train leaders to reach children effectively, APNTS emphasizes holistic child development (identified as "the child in the midst") throughout their doctoral and master's course offerings.

CARIBBEAN - Following Haiti's January 12 earthquakes, "Safe Place" children's camps were created for children to process their trauma through play therapy. Children in Belize are leading the way using "orality" methods to engage the narratives of Scripture. Weaving personal observations into the story of Zacchaeus, a young boy in San Ignacio led the congregation to discover how personal greediness hinders Christ-likeness, resulting in lives changed at an altar.

EURASIA - Teachers in Bangladesh now have access to a children's Sunday School curriculum written by Asians for Asians. Training in Dhaka reached 20 pastors and teachers from 10 local Nazarene churches who received basic training and 6 months worth of visual aids. Additionally, 40 children's workers from 11 churches attended the Dutch District Children's Ministries

Training Day and Ukraine had a record turnout of over 220 at children's camps emphasizing connection with God.

MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA - In Nicaragua, TNU students and the MAC South evangelism coordinator showed the JESUS Film to over 200 people and shared Bible lessons with 600 children, resulting in 64 conversions.

SOUTH AMERICA - A pilot episode was filmed for *Industria X*, a preteen TV series focusing on God's redeeming work through His Church. It will be offered throughout South America and incorporated into Spanish discipleship material for preteens.

USA/CANADA - Grace Community Christian School second graders in Tempe, Arizona, raised money to send eight soccer balls to the mission field through *GOL 2010*. Children at Gallatin First Church in Tennessee raised over \$3,000. Oakes, North Dakota Church featured the *GOL 2010* evangelism soccer balls as their Vacation Bible School offering project, resulting in \$500 raised and 23 children becoming new believers in Christ! Also the children of Auburn, Indiana, gave their VBS offering toward the purchase of an ARK, a versatile portable structure used for everything from child development centers to training and education centers, medical clinics, and JESUS Film showings.

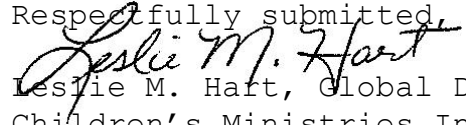
NAZARENE SAFE, Abuse Awareness and Prevention

Within my first six weeks at the Global Ministry Center, I was made aware of a critical need to address sexual abuse awareness and prevention through a commission convened by Dr. David Wilson, who asked me to serve as director and organize this vital, new area of ministry. Much progress has been made to develop a program, guidelines, procedures, training, and resources including a website with downloadable resources. The Nazarene Safe Plan recommends that all local churches (beginning in USA/Canada) implement the following: (1) abuse awareness training; (2) application and screening process; (3) background checks; and (4) guidelines and procedures created using Nazarene Safe website resources as templates and employing the assistance of local legal counsel. A more comprehensive discussion is detailed in the General Secretary's Report.

CONCLUSION

Children and children's teachers and leaders around the world are reaching out and being reached with the love of Christ and being equipped to do the work for which God has called them. I am grateful for the faithful support of a patient, professional staff during a challenging year of transition, and I look forward to the future, secure in the knowledge that God can accomplish infinitely more than we could ever ask or imagine!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leslie M. Hart". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Leslie M. Hart, Global Director
Children's Ministries International