

REPORT TO THE 2012 GENERAL BOARD
SUNDAY SCHOOL & DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
DEPARTMENT

Woodie J. Stevens, Global Director

In a year of major change and restructure at the Global Ministry Center the mission of Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI) remains strong. We seek 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, youth, and adults to be productive disciples of Jesus. In turn, as disciples of Jesus they are helping others be faithful fruitful disciples of Jesus, 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; 4) To encourage children, youth, and adults to discover the daily joy of entering into the presence of Jesus and uncover the discipling power of His Word. Then faithfully and intentionally share His Word in close personal relationships and in Sunday School and small groups.

As SDMI director, I have been responsible for providing general coordination and support for the Church of the Nazarene discipleship ministries. Our Sunday Schools and small groups serve as global avenues for developing Christlike disciples. SDMI champions prayer, the Bible, and discipleship ministries.

It has been my privilege to serve with Dr. J.K. Warrick as jurisdictional general superintendent and with a wonderfully gifted team in the SDMI office.

SDMI Office Personnel in 2011 included:

- Leslie Hart – Children’s Ministries International Director
- Judy Comstock – Nazarene Safe, Children’s Leadership Network
- Gwen Cullins – CMI Administrative Assistant
- Dan Harris – VBS, Caravan, Camping, Kids Reaching Kids
- Nate Owens – Children’s Ministries Communications
- Beula Postlewait - Nazarene Education office
- Mallory Sauer – Children’s Ministries Intern
- Allison Southerland - Quizzing, Children’s Leaders Network
- Larry Morris – Adult Ministries International Director
- *Marshall Duke – Men’s Ministries,
- *David & Lisa Frisbee – Family Life Ministries
- Linda Hardin – Women’s Ministries, Single Adults
- *Jim Pettitt – Marriage and Family Life
- *Darrel Rotz – Senior Adult Ministries
- Shirley Smith – AMI Administrative Assistance
- John Comstock – CLT Coordinator

- Ted Hall – CLT intern
- *J. D. Sailors – Online Discipleship Coordinator
- Jeanne Hubbs – Department Office Manager
- Barbara J. Hughey – Accounting Assistant
- Kathy Lewis – Communications Coordinator

(*Denotes those serving as consultants and independent contractors to SDMI)

By the end of our statistical year, we had officially said goodbye to 13 of these valued mission partners. Some retired, some voluntarily resigned, some positions were vacated, and some were laid off. We grieve the loss of good friends and colleagues who loved their jobs and were good at it. Now we are adapting to a new reality for SDMI and the GMC. This report reflects the diligent efforts of these wonderful people who have served the church well.

- **GLOBAL SDMI COUNCIL** - The Global SDMI regional coordinators met four times in 2011 via video conference calls. Our meetings are cost effective and productive as we simultaneously see, hear, and speak through live interactive video. Each of these video meetings provided opportunities for global collaboration, information, and reports from each region as to the advance of SDMI ministries around the world.

Melvin Rigsby reported as the Asia-Pacific SDMI coordinator from Singapore. He has overseen discipleship efforts including the "4/14 Window" which refers to people between the ages of 4 and 14. On May 5th, Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary and Nazarene Compassionate Ministries joined a collaborative, national effort called, "4/14 Window Philippines" to address

the needs of children. The event brought together denominations, ministries, and community organizations from across the Philippines to take a meaningful look at the current state of Filipino Children and advocate for their integral place in society and church. It is this section of society that is often the most neglected and yet most receptive and open to spiritual and developmental input. Through events like this the leadership in the Philippines hopes to inspire churches to prioritize children in their ministries and to serve holistically among this powerful demographic, intentionally discipling them for life-long faith. At the 2011 Asia-Pacific Regional conference Leslie Hart presented Nazarene Safe and conducted meetings with several of our Nazarene schools.

Daphne Mathebula serves as the coordinator in Johannesburg, South Africa. She leads, challenges, and motivates discipleship ministries on the Africa Region. A highlight of this past year was the growing number of intentionally organized ministry activities for children, youth, and adults. The goal was to effectively nurture the believers with the Word of God. SDMI Africa facilitated training workshops, retreats for men, a Nazarene Women's Extravaganza on the Africa South Field, and a writers/editors workshop in preparation for 2013 curriculum. SDMI facilitated multiple ministries including retreats for couples, pastors and spouses, children's camps, Bible Quizzing, Sunday School rallies and all-night Bible studies. Recently the Sunday School lessons for children, youth, and adults based on the Articles of Faith have been developed and completed for the year 2012. Continuing Lay Training is a rapidly growing and highly valued area of ministry for our lay people in Africa.

The internet address has made possible this impact training with low cost infrastructure. Continuing Lay Training is rapidly growing in Africa.

Barry Burnell, Eurasia SDMI coordinator in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, seeks to serve the educational arm of the local church throughout Europe and Southwestern Asia. Discipleship ministries in Eurasia assist Christ's followers in making disciples through training, Sunday School curriculum, Bible studies, and encouragement of prayer.

Robin Radi served part of the year as the SDMI coordinator from Pilar, Argentina, on the South America Region. Patricia Picavea is the newly-appointed coordinator. Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries is alive and well in Brazil, South America. The 6th Congress of MEDDI, "Learning of Holiness and Power," was held in Rio de Janeiro with Admandu Taxila, as host pastor. Delegates from all over Brazil enjoyed the well-attended event.

This year has been unique as the regions of Mexico/Central America (MAC) and Caribbean combined to create the new Mesoamerica Region midway through the church year.

Monte Cyr, Mesoamerica SDMI coordinator in Miami led the region to focus on six major themes including: a discipleship plan, Sunday School, ministry training, leadership training, ministry resources, and World Wide Web technology.

Ramon Sierra served as the MAC Discipleship Coordinator for part of the church year. While in that role, he put together a great regional leadership team. Working alongside many other dedicated volunteers, they produced free electronic materials and resources for discipleship, including children's church

lessons, Vacation Bible School lessons, children's Bible quizzing, Sunday School growth campaign ideas, SDMI subthemes, etc. This team also provided training for SDMI leaders, teachers, and pastors across each of the fields, resulting in innovative and effective discipleship ministries all over the region.

The Mesoamerican Region hosted major SDMI training events in Nicaragua, Panama, Mexico, Haiti, Trinidad, and Tobago.

- **FINANCES** - Since 2008 SDMI has been significantly impacted by the economic downturn and subsequent budget reductions. The Nazarene Publishing House completed its commitment of supplemental funding in 2011. The 2011 SDMI allocated WEF funds were \$1,026,000.00. The department budget for 2012 is \$575,419. SDMI has 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, vacated positions, and benefit reductions. Programs have been reduced, modified, or deleted. Presently, our office has one director and five full-time employees. A new delivery system for facilitating SDMI is being implemented as we adapt to the new economic realities around the world and at the Global Ministry Center.
- **ENGAGE THE WORD** - In partnership with the Global Bible Societies through the American Bible Society and Nazarene Publishing House, SDMI launched a three-year global emphasis called, "Engage the Word." Each fall, through 2013, a 40-day Scriptural engagement emphasis is available to 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 Nazarenes to take the Bible off the shelf and immerse their hearts and minds in God’s life-changing Word. The 40 passages of scripture trace the red thread of redemption from Genesis to Revelation. The scriptures can be used in every language for which Bible translations are available.

- **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 71 certificates and 23 award trophies have been presented to men and women who have given themselves selflessly - doing more than was expected or required.

- **STATISTICS** – The 2011 Annual Pastor’s Report has provided a more complete picture of our ministry effectiveness.

The Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries responsibility list reflects growth of 6.14% to 1,578,628.

Each region reported the following numbers:

	Discipleship Responsibility	Discipleship Attendance	Sunday School Attendance
Africa	244,971	31,954	162,913
Asia-Pacific	60,312	20,615	37,610

Eurasia	87,990	21,739	42,082
Mesoamerica	236,175	23,907	134,595
South America	153,497	36,187	90,749
United States	795,670	144,710	272,287

Weekly 1,088,227 people attend a Church of the Nazarene Sunday School or small group somewhere in the world. That is an attendance increase of 16.4% over last year.

- ON-LINE DISCIPLESHIP** - Partnering with Global Media Outreach, J.D. Sailors has completed the first year of providing a worldwide internet evangelism/discipleship opportunity for Nazarene Sunday Schools and small groups. Every day two million people go on-line looking for God. Global Media Outreach has 104 web sites 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 invites Nazarenes from all over the world to go on-line and help people find and know Jesus and connect with the Church of the Nazarene. Through our SDMI connections we are raising up Nazarenes who will disciple these new believers and connect them with the Church of the Nazarene. SDMI is aggressively recruiting Sunday School classes, teachers, leaders, and individuals to become on-line disciple makers. We currently have four on-line community groups with 83 working at the task. That is an increase of 63 individuals over this time last year. In November of 2011, the 83 on-line disciple makers sent out 4,021 responses and added 2,943 new visitors. Since

October 1, 2010, we have sent out over 28,000 responses to over 20,000 contacts from all over the world.

- **THE MASTER'S PLAN DISCIPLESHIP SUMMITS** - SDMI partnered with Cali, Colombia House of Prayer; Miami, Florida Betania Church; Bloomington, Illinois First Church; Anaheim, California First Church; and the Missouri District in providing five Discipleship Summits based on The Master's Plan. Craig Rensch wrote *The Master's Plan, A Strategy for Making Disciples*. It was released in October at the Miami Betania Plan del Maestro conference. A web site and materials are being developed for the benefit of those interesting in implementing an effective discipleship strategy.

- **CONTINUING LAY TRAINING (CLT)** - The Discipleship Place has gone global. CLT delivers needed on-line holiness discipleship resources to anyone accessing the Web.

This past year CLT offered 21 on-line (webinar) and conference call training sessions with over 1,100 people participating. Our webinars have included people in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, South America, and the USA.

Through our partnership with Nazarene Youth International, CLT is hosting the Youth Ministry Academy. These on-line courses provide excellent resources for lay ministers and others who care about ministering to youth. Upon request we are working with our Africa region to translate the modules into Portuguese and French. A children's ministries leadership module is being prepared to serve this growing need in the church.

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. These courses are a key to the growth of the church as laity discover the beliefs, mission, and structure of the church.

Additional CLT on-line resources include 22 short (15-20 minute) educational modules for specific ministry topics and concerns.

Discipleship is more than the memorization and utilization of content. Every Christian needs and deserves a journey partner. CLT reinforces learning modules with mentors who guide growing Christians as they learn. A requirement for receiving a Certificate of Lay Ministry is a pastor-assigned mentor for each student. This partnership gives application and accountability to each educational unity.

A mentoring relationship is especially essential for new Christians. The new on-line devotional series for brand new Christians, "31 days," connects a new believer with a spiritual mentor. This mentor receives the same devotional as the new believer with the added reminder to stay constant in prayer, communication, and encouragement.

As of 2011 all CLT participants have access to other members who are participating in the journey of discipleship. Facebook has come to CLT. This relational connection is bringing greater accountability and support to the denominationally approved content.

Continuing Lay Training materials address the needs of the newest Christian as well as the seasoned servant. Currently CLT is being redesigned

so that an on-line visitor can take a simple survey which will recommend appropriate resources. This simple addition encourages growth in discipleship in the areas of knowledge, relationship, and service. This progressive curriculum features the membership modules which guide the user through an understanding of the church's history, doctrine, mission, and polity.

Strategically CLT.com has been used around the world to teach the doctrine, mission, and vision of the Church of the Nazarene. The need for more CLT awareness and translation of materials is systematically being met as time and monies allow. Raising awareness continues as a daunting challenge. However, CLT.com will increasingly become the delivery system of choice for lay education and on-line discipleship training and resources around the world.

- **PRIME TIME MINISTRIES** - Darrel Rotz served as coordinator for ministry resources for mature adults. Senior adults are the fastest growing age group in the Church of the Nazarene in North America and around the world. This is especially significant as senior adults provide the largest number of participants to volunteer ministry services and give more per capita to the Church of the Nazarene than any other age group. Prime Time Ministries helps local churches and districts meet the needs of those 55 years of age and over. Prime Time offers seminars, workshops, and special speakers that can help senior adults discover and rediscover ways to make themselves and others more effective disciples of Christ.

Prime Time Retreats have been a vital and well-attended destination of Nazarene senior adults for many years. The successful 2011 event was held in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

A special thank you is due Darrel Rotz, who has served as Prime Time Ministries Coordinator in days of transition. In September of this year Wm. Marshall Duke expanded his responsibilities to include Prime Time Ministries advocate.

- **FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES** - David & Lisa Frisbie and James Pettitt coordinated this emphasis. Championing and resourcing healthy, intact marriages as a key factor in shaping our family, raising our children, and influencing our world are essential.

Clergy marriages and families are not immune to forces tearing at the bonds of marital love and destroying families. At the request of the Board of General Superintendents Strategic Marriage Initiative continues to be served through SDMI. The findings of the 2011 clergy marital health survey were shared with district superintendents so that they could better understand the pressures upon clergy families.

- **MEN'S MINISTRIES** – The focal point is for every man to have a living, growing relationship with Jesus Christ and for every man to be a disciple. Marshall Duke continues to assist men's leaders in the process, providing them with encouragement and pointing them to resources and strategies that can be implemented in the effort to make Christ-like disciples.

- **SINGLE ADULT MINISTRIES** - Linda Hardin serves as the voice for singles in SDMI. Providing insight and support to singles is increasingly important as a growing number of single adults enter retirement as never-married persons and persons without children.
- **NAZARENE FELLOWSHIP OF SINGLE ADULTS (NFSA)** - Two work and witness events were hosted over Labor Day weekend to assist people in Alabama and Joplin, Missouri, as they continue to recover and rebuild their lives after the devastating tornados. In 2012 NFSA will develop a web site to facilitate networking among SAM leaders and launch a singles ministry prayer emphasis called "Pray It Forward 2012" over the last weekend of September.
- **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES** - The Women's Ministries General Council released a new video Bible study series called Mor2Lif. The series challenges women between 25 and 35 years of age to live with a Christ-centered perspective. Various topics explore what the Bible says and encourage participants to implement new discoveries into their lives. Topics include relationships, communication, conflict, forgiveness, work, and sexuality. One leader commented, "I have viewed each video and LOVE IT.... It is SO relevant to the needs and issues of our women. Thank you for keeping the Holiness message relevant in our modern day culture... never compromising the message and standard, but speaking the realities of today." This web-based tool is available on a DVD with the leader's guide,

discussion outlines, and other resources downloadable from the Mor2Lif web site.

- **KIDS REACHING KIDS MISSION OFFERING PROJECT** - Dan Harris, coordinator, reported the 2011 Mission Offering Project, *Mission STAR Quest*, raised \$294,792.40 (-11% from last year). There were 984 contributing ministries, a modest decrease from 1016 last year.

The *Hope Project* distributions included: Touch-a-Life, the after-school ministry scholarships resource, awarded to four local church projects; sponsorship of fifteen children through Compassionate Ministries; and 102 WordAction VBS grants in Canada, Eurasia, Mesoamerica, South America, and the Ukraine.

The 2012 Mission Offering Project titled *His Hands* will raise funds for medical needs for children. For the first time, the Mission Offering Project has an offering kit including: bracelets, stickers, offering boxes, and offering charts. *His Hands* has a goal of \$400,000 in 2012, anticipating an increase of 20% participation.

- **BABY DAY** - SDMI continues its support of Baby Day.
- **SCOUTING** - A new Nazarene logo pin for Nazarene Scouting has been developed for the God and Church medal.

- **CARAVAN** - We support Caravan with the 2011 theme, “Be Transformed!” Five hundred and five registered Caravan Clubs, with 6,868 students, earned 889 Caravan awards including 390 Phineas F. Breese Medals. David Murembu in Harare, Zimbabwe sent this response after receiving a Caravan starter kit, “Thanks for the materials. It got here in one piece. I and the team will start working on them soon. For now I am setting up training campaigns that would help the guys know and develop their skills working with children in a Caravan setup.”
- **CHILDREN’S QUIZZING** - Allison Southerland, coordinator, updated and interpreted the Children's Quizzing official rules and procedures. The Global Quizzing translation project provided by the Kids Reaching Kids Mission offering, *The D-Code Challenge*, completed the Matthew project. This is a major milestone as the first in a series of children’s Quizzing Bible studies. The book of Matthew in five major languages is now available. Global children’s quizzing is now possible because of this project. The work continues with the book of Acts to be completed in 2012. The majority of quiz teams are from the USA and Canada. However there are also teams from Barbados, Brazil, the British Isles, the Philippines, the Virgin Islands, and West Africa. The finished Children’s Quizzing Bible Studies are on every regional FTP site for download and sold online. This note was recently received, “Greetings from Ghana. I am very excited that quizzing has taken root on the Africa West Field. I am promoting quizzing and more districts have decided to order the material. I will

be soon disbursing 1 & 2 Samuel in both English and French. Thank you for creating such an excellent children's discipleship tool.”

SDMI has several ministry partners that serve the local church. These organizations include:

Nazarene Camping Association (NCA) - Anthony Haney serves as president of campgrounds owned and operated by the church.

Nazarene Motorcycle Fellowship (NMF) - David Middendorf is president of the general council. Marshall Duke also serves as the secretary. The general council processed applications to fund motorcycles for pastors from ‘The Rusty Bellomy Bikes for Missions’ project. Since May, four motorcycles have been placed with pastors in Guatemala, Peru, and West Africa.

Nazarene Educators Worldwide (NEW) - Jim Upchurch serves as the chair. This network of Nazarene teachers sent a team of 16 this past June to Nairobi, Kenya. The educators provided seminars, workshops, inspirational services, and teacher education in three different settings for children, youth, and adult leaders from three African countries.

Nazarene Children’s Leadership Network (NCLN) - Andy Ervin leads the council. The Ignite Summit, October 10-13, took place at several ministry sites in the greater Kansas City area. Over 100 children’s pastors and workers from across the United States, and one from Brazil, attended the conference.

Nazarene Safe – This is the denomination’s tool for promoting child abuse prevention and awareness around the world. The web site, www.NazareneSafe.com, is available for all churches as a resource to provide

guidance in this serious issue of protecting the vulnerable in our midst. Nazarene Safe presented workshops at regional gatherings in Manila and Louisville, in addition to multiple presentations at districts and local churches. Awareness training is encouraged around the world.

At the end of the statistical year, due to budget restrictions and GMC restructure, the director positions of Children's and Adult Ministries International were vacated. Leslie Hart and Larry Morris served with distinction and their leadership roles are greatly missed. Children's Ministries personnel are served by ordained children's ministers, Allison Southerland and Dan Harris. John Comstock serves as the key leader for Continuing Lay Training, The Discipleship Place. Larry Morris fills the role of the department's mission strategist as an administrative director. Jeanne Hubbs manages the office and serves as the administrative assistant to the department.

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 2011, it has been my privilege to serve the church in Nicaragua, Haiti, Canada, Kenya, Brazil, and the USA promoting the call to Holiness through Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Woodie J. Stevens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'W'.

Woodie J. Stevens, Global Director

Sunday School & Discipleship Ministries International

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