



**ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS  
TO THE  
86<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL BOARD  
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

**February 2009**

***“THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT”***

On behalf of the Board of General Superintendents, I welcome you to the 86<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Board in Overland Park, Kansas, USA. This is the final meeting of the General Board prior to the 27<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and Conventions scheduled for Orlando, Florida, USA, 24 June through 3 July 2009.

Greetings to the members of the General Board, officers, and directors of the Global Ministry Center (GMC), the regional directors, Nazarene Publishing House, GMC staff, and guests.

A special welcome to Bob Broadbooks, recently-elected director of USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism. Brother Bob joins the Global Mission Team, bringing experience as a pastor and district superintendent of two districts: Alabama North, USA and Tennessee, USA. We also extend a warm welcome to his wife, Carol.

We want to express our special thanks to the individuals who make General Board meetings possible. There is much work to be done prior to our arrival, while we are here, and after we have scattered to the four corners of the earth. Someone has to make sure everything is in order. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen!

To those whose ministry is the gift of administration and translation, we extend our appreciation for all you do to bring together everything that is needed for a successful General Board meeting.

We give thanks to the Global Ministry Center officers, directors, and staff. This important place of service is part of the heritage of one of the general superintendents, Nina Gunter, former general director of Nazarene Missions International.

Our gratitude is extended to the church's nearly 24,000 pastors—with two career pastors on the Board, Paul Cunningham and J. K. Warrick. We also want to acknowledge our missionaries, evangelists, compassionate ministry directors, and chaplains; how grateful we are for your faithful service to the Kingdom through the Church of the Nazarene.

One of the more challenging roles in the church is that of district superintendent. There are three former district superintendents on the Board of General Superintendents—Jesse Middendorf, Jerry Porter, and me. Our thanks and deep appreciation also go to our district superintendents around the world.

Our gratitude is extended to the Nazarene laity, who are salt and light, and whose daily efforts are crucial to mission. We are humbled by your dedication, faithfulness, caring, and passion for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

#### John A. Knight—Friend and Colleague

John A. Knight, general superintendent emeritus of the Church of the Nazarene, went to be with the Lord on 2 February 2009. He was elected to emeritus status by the 25<sup>th</sup> quadrennial General Assembly of the denomination in June 2001.

Prior to this time John Knight served for 16 years on the six-member Board of General Superintendents. He was elected to this highest elective office by the 21<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the church in 1985 while he was serving as president of Bethany Nazarene College (now Southern Nazarene University).

On behalf of the Church of the Nazarene and the Board of General Superintendents, I express our deepest sympathy to his wife, Justine, and their children—John Allen Jr., James, and Judith Anne Walraven.

This is a great loss for our denomination as well.

“Holiness, missions, and education are the hallmarks of who we are,” John Knight used to say.

“Over the years we’ve learned better ways to proclaim the holiness message. For Nazarenes, education and evangelism walk hand in hand. Without evangelism, education can become rationalistic and sterile. Put them together, and they are a powerful force for changing people and society,” he added.

We are grateful for John Knight’s contribution to the Kingdom and to the Church of the Nazarene, where he served faithfully as pastor, teacher, writer, editor of the *Herald of Holiness*, college president, former member of the General Board, and finally, as general superintendent.

### Mission and Core Values

In order for the Church of the Nazarene to have a viable future, it needs to continue being visionary—with spiritual, not human eyes. Without a vision of God the people will perish. As the hymn writer says:

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art—  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

In order for the Church of the Nazarene “to make Christlike disciples in the nations,” it is necessary for us to experience God’s sanctifying grace in our lives. How can we help those around us become more like Jesus on our own?

People coming to the Lord and becoming true disciples are supernatural works requiring the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. No book, no training, no class can take the place of prayer and the Spirit’s presence in our lives.

In order for the church to live its core values of being Christian, holiness, and missional and not just talk about them, Nazarenes need to understand what these values mean and teach them by example to a new generation.

To be an international church, it is important to speak a universal language. That language is the love of Christ generated from a purified heart. The Apostle Peter said it well when he wrote, “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” (I Peter 1:22, NKJV).

How we treat one another—the quality of our relationships—is the most important sermon preached. This, as much as anything, determines the outcome of our mission.

### **A Year in Review**

What a year 2008 has been!

The Church of the Nazarene began the last 12 months of the quadrennium anticipating the celebration of its Centennial (1908–2008) in October.

The global economic crisis arrived in full force about the same time. No one seems to have escaped the reach of this financial turmoil. Congregations, districts, educational institutions, compassionate ministry centers, the Global Ministry Center, and regional offices are all being impacted by the crisis.

It is tempting to put aside God’s mission and focus on the economic situation. There is a need for church leadership to face reality, and the Board of General Superintendents is committed to doing that.

At the same time, it is imperative that we stay focused on Jesus Christ and the completion of His work on earth. He will build His Church, regardless of the ups and downs of the Hang Seng Index in Hong Kong, the Sao Paulo Exchange in Brazil, or the Dow Jones Industrial Averages on Wall Street in New York, USA.

Our Board is calling Nazarenes to prayer that the Lord’s will be done in the life and ministry of His church as we navigate our way through turbulent times.

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you ... For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior” (Isaiah 43:2–3, NASB).

The church has faced obstacles before, and it will again. Our faith and trust must remain in an unchangeable God, as the denomination’s founders demonstrated 100 years ago.

### Accountability in Mission

The kingdom of God continues advancing. How this happens, we do not always know; but it does.

When confronted with the Sabbath healing at the pool of Bethesda, Jesus answered, saying, “My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working” (John 5:17, NASB). The church has the assurance that the Heavenly Father is always at work.

Highlights from the 2008 General Secretary’s report show the following:

- Membership grew to 1.8 million, a gain of 6 percent over 2007.

<u>World Area</u>	<u>Total Members</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Africa	410,816	12.6%
Asia-Pacific	103,453	2.5%
Caribbean	155,364	5.8%
Eurasia	153,387	18.2%
Mexico and Central America	154,235	3.8%
South America	201,736	7.9%
USA/Canada	658,402	0.4%

- There were 156,525 new Nazarenes reported—just over 131,000 by profession of faith.
- There are now almost 23,000 congregations in the Church of the Nazarene, 16,209 of which are organized.
- New church evangelism starts totaled 1,005.
- There were 794 General Board-funded missionaries and volunteers.
- Sunday School gained almost 2.5 percent, averaging nearly 813,000 in weekly attendance. We know that in different geographical areas this may be referred to as something other than Sunday School. Yet a designated meeting time continues to be vital for building relationships, disciple making, and the study of God’s Word.
- There were net gains of 280 ordained elders and 805 licensed ministers.
- In 2008 the Church of the Nazarene through NCM facilitated the distribution of well over \$3 million for AIDS relief/education within the Africa Region.
- Total raised for all purposes is close to a billion dollars—reaching \$953 million in 2008.
- The World Evangelism Fund (WEF) received \$48.7 million. Giving to mission specials was \$29.6 million. The combined 2008 total for WEF and mission specials was \$78.3 million. WEF has less than a .03 percent gain, and mission specials actually declined.
- It is important to call attention to the fact that WEF giving, while sacrificial in many ways, is not keeping up with inflation. Minimal gains are cause for concern and will have to be taken into account when allocating financial resources.

So what is it that empowers and enables the church to be blessed with these results? It is Jesus Christ, the work of the Holy Spirit, and prayer. The Church of the Nazarene should be mindful of this and resist any thought that this fruitfulness is of its own doing.

The church is not a business, and we are not here to boost the bottom line. The church must not be caught up solely in “what works” or “success” and fail to ask the question, “What does God’s Word teach us?” Not much of what we do will last unless it is built on the foundation of Scripture, the teachings of Jesus.

May Nazarenes be known as people who build on the rock, not on the sand (Matthew 7:24–27).

As General Superintendent Emeritus Eugene Stowe once said, “Nazarenes should be geared for the times and anchored to the Rock.”

What is the cost of mission?

There are places in the world where people have the freedom to worship and fail to do so. In other places they face the threat of losing their lives by making a commitment to Jesus Christ.

Last month I conducted a district assembly in India, including Orissa State. District Superintendent Rev. Sudipta Behera reported on the violence focused on Christian believers. There were 34 Nazarene churches that were fully destroyed. Hundreds of Nazarenes lost their homes. Three Nazarene pastors were martyred because they were ministers of Jesus Christ. Behera stated, “The smoke of violence is not yet over.”

Others face similar conditions on different regions.

If we are a “family,” as we say we are, then let us remember our fellow Nazarenes in prayer and be mindful of their sacrifice as we reflect on the past year.

### Single Jurisdiction General Superintendent

Effective 1 March 2008 the Board of General Superintendents put in place a single-jurisdiction arrangement for the Global Ministry Center and Nazarene Publishing House. The Board chair is now designated as the individual who, on behalf of the entire Board, oversees the operations of the Global Ministry Center and Nazarene Publishing House for the two-year period of his or her chairmanship.

General Superintendent Jesse Middendorf is the first to serve in this new role. He will continue serving through 2009 before turning over this responsibility to General Superintendent J. K. Warrick, currently Board secretary, on 1 January 2010.

The new jurisdictional design is subject to ongoing review by the BGS as well as feedback from the GMC and the president of NPH.

We are still working through how to handle other jurisdictional assignments of the BGS chair since the single jurisdiction responsibility is a heavy load for one person to carry.

### Celebrating the Centennial

From an inconspicuous union of holiness groups under a white tent on the prairie of Texas in the USA 100 years ago to a global family of more than 1.8 million members across every inhabited continent, the Church of the Nazarene has been driven by a consuming passion to make Christlike disciples in the nations.

This mission gave cause for an unprecedented, once-in-a-lifetime, worldwide celebration of God’s blessings on the church during its Centennial, recognizing 100 years as a holiness and “Great Commission” movement.

Around the world the church celebrated the heritage of its past, rediscovering and embracing its roots. It was also a celebration of the present and the church’s missional future.

This celebration across 24 time zones on 5 October 2008 continues throughout the 100<sup>th</sup> year in district and regional festivities, conferences, lecture series, and ministry outreach.

As a global family we celebrated under the banner of “Out of Many One, Out of One Many,” emphasizing both the diversity of cultures, languages, and nationalities and our unity as people of one message and one mission.

The Centennial celebration was made possible by extensive resources of print and media prepared by a task force of individual authors and representatives from Children’s Ministries, Nazarene Youth International, and Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries. The editor-in-chief of the Centennial celebration was Gay Leonard. We say to you, Gay, thank you for your incredible leadership of a once-in-a-lifetime event!

Lillenas Publishing Company created “One,” an original Centennial musical. World Mission translated videos and printed materials.

Nazarene Publishing House and America’s Christian Credit Union were the two official sponsors of the Centennial Celebration, without whose help we could not have resourced all our churches at no cost. We cannot emphasize enough our appreciation to these sponsors and to the regional offices around the world, whose personnel made the Centennial materials available to everyone in countless languages through their tireless efforts.

On one Sunday the church joined as one global family in watching the identical DVD and sharing the same scriptures. Many used the sermon prepared by Jesse Middendorf for this occasion. The global church was especially united by the sacred breaking of bread and drinking of the cup.

The Centennial also gave opportunity for reinforcing the church’s beliefs to newcomers and long-time Nazarenes through reviewing the Core Values and Articles of Faith and by preaching the truth of holiness.

Nazarenes gained a first or a new appreciation of our history and the proclamation of our mission, resulting in countless baptisms, new members received, and many churches planted.

Here are a few highlights:

- Six Nazarene congregations on South Africa’s Gauteng District joined on 5 October for one celebration. The gathering of congregations from the Roodepoort Zone took place at the Maraisburg Church of the Nazarene. Why was this so special? This illustrated how three districts formerly divided by race became one on the Gauteng District.
- Despite political unrest at many levels, children and youth in Southeast Asia experienced firsthand what it means to be part of an international family during the Centennial. While Lahu children in northern Thailand lit 100 lanterns signifying that they are letting their lights shine for Jesus, children in Bangkok learned about the Articles of Faith and sang for the first time, “Called Unto Holiness.”

- Over 200 hispanic Nazarenes of the Canada Central District gathered for a special celebration service in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, and hispanic Nazarenes from across the USA gathered at the Pasadena, California, First Church of the Nazarene, representing 29 districts.
- More than 100 Jamaican Nazarenes celebrated the true spirit of compassionate ministries by visiting the Mandeville Infirmary, where they painted walls, cleaned windows, brought hot lunches, groomed the hair of both men and women, and shared special moments praying at bedsides.
- The South Asia Field of Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka—low on finances but high in faith—celebrated by setting a goal of developing 153 church-type missions into fully-organized churches. They exceeded their goal by 92 (60 percent), organizing 245 churches.

In addition to our celebrations by more than 22,000 local churches, our 57 institutions of higher education also participated by ministering to their communities. The celebration at Indonesia Nazarene Theological College featured praise and worship and community social action, distributing 100 bags of rice and conducting a blood drive. All these and many other events were preceded by the foundational “100 Hours of Prayer.”

At Trevecca Nazarene University, Nashville, Tennessee, USA, there were several chapels and a Centennial service which drew the largest attendance for any function ever outside of graduation.

Praise God for 100 years of His faithfulness to the Church of the Nazarene and to those who daily give back in mission service.

#### Relocating to the Global Ministry Center

As of 15 September 2008 the Church of the Nazarene is operating its administrative offices for worldwide ministries from the Global Ministry Center in Lenexa, Kansas, USA. On opening day the employees were welcomed by the Board of General Superintendents. Members of that Board led the group in a time of worship, giving thanks for God’s blessing on the work and vision that led to the creation and occupancy of the GMC.

In addition to the GMC employees, all regional directors were on site for this opening event. Representing the six World Mission regions were Gustavo Crocker (Eurasia), Eugenio Duarte (Africa), Carlos Saenz (Mexico and Central America), Christian Sarmiento (South America), John Smee (Caribbean), and Verne Ward III (Asia-Pacific). The presence of these leaders helped connect in spirit the entire Nazarene family.

At approximately 109,000 square feet, the two-story Global Ministry Center is located on 15.3 hectares (38 acres) and functions as an administrative hub in resourcing and networking Nazarene personnel, churches, missions, and ministries.

The idea was to have the facility completed in conjunction with the denomination's Centennial in October 2008. The doors of the new Global Ministry Center opened 20 days before our Centennial celebration on 5 October. We give thanks to the Lord!

A key purpose of the GMC is to function as a collaborative and flexible environment.

The property that previously served as the Church of the Nazarene International Headquarters is a multi-hectare (multi-acre) complex in Kansas City, Missouri, USA. This includes three office buildings, the first of which was built in the 1950s.

After considerable research, prayer, and professional guidance, the General Board voted in 2005 for the relocation of the Headquarters. The decision was made under the direction of the Board of General Superintendents and the General Board Executive Committee.

Nazarene Theological Seminary and Nazarene Publishing House have chosen to remain at their current locations in Kansas City. The new GMC site has space for the development of NTS and NPH should those entities choose to relocate there in the future.

Our gratitude goes to Jack Stone, David Wilson, Larry Morris, Judy Veigl, Don Walter, Rich Houseal, Mike Fetting, David Hayse, Jackie Berdych, Carmen Ringhiser, and especially Marilyn McCool for their efforts above and beyond the call of duty to make this project a reality.

Friends and constituents of the Church of the Nazarene continue to provide financial gifts and pledges representing a worldwide effort in support of the denomination's administrative center. In 2006, Japanese and South Korean Nazarenes provided the impetus for additional financial support as they led the way in key donations. World Mission regions have made a \$1 million (USD) commitment. General Board members, GMC employees, individuals, churches, districts, and Nazarene institutions are adding to the gifts.

#### Global Ministry Center Situation Assessment

As the global financial crisis began spreading in the fall of 2008, the Board of General Superintendents, working with General Secretary David Wilson and General Treasurer Marilyn McCool, conducted the initial phase of a situation assessment of the Global Ministry Center.

These results have been shared with the Global Ministry Team, the GMC staff, and others.

Here are the preliminary conclusions of this assessment:

#### ***Internally the Global Ministry Center is facing:***

- Decreasing revenue
- Decreasing reserves
- Increasing expenses

- The funding of only essential ministry commitments
- A \$25 million GMC debt liability

***Planning assumptions for the immediate future are based on:***

- A global financial crisis that could be prolonged, deep, and volatile
- An overall reduction in the WEF formula and decrease in WEF receipts
- The ability to proactively and quickly address critical issues
- No external rescue plan

***The proposed internal plan calls for:***

- Making cost reductions and containing expenses (see budget review below)
- Allocating budget to mission priorities
- Finding the right staffing levels
- Ensuring a prudent operating reserve

***The proposed external plan will:***

- Provide frequent, concise, and professional communication to all constituencies in the church as to the mission and its priorities
- Nurture WEF support among the congregations
- Step up the marketing of the Paseo properties (formerly the International Headquarters site) in Kansas City
- Raise funds for GMC debt retirement

**GMC Budget Review**

As a result of this international economic crisis and in light of our commitment to keep our primary focus on the mission of the church, the Global Ministry Center and regional offices have been undergoing a budget review. This review directed by the BGS, is designed to find ways of reducing expenses by at least 10 percent.

The subsequent plan to address this situation will be carried out under the supervision of the Board of General Superintendents and in consultation with the Executive and Finance Committees of the General Board.

The Board and others need the Holy Spirit's guidance in order to steward the church through this situation—including the difficult decisions that will need to be made to keep income and expenses in balance.

**General Board Structure**

The Board of General Superintendents voted in its December 2008 meetings to recommend proposed changes in the structure of the General Board. These changes, if adopted, would be effective with the newly-elected General Board at its first meeting in February 2010.

The current structure is composed of committees in the following areas:

- Finance Committee
- Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International and Nazarene Youth International Committee
- USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Committee
- World Mission Committee
- The International Board of Education Committee also reports to the General Board

The recommended structure would focus the General Board on global policy and accountability supportive of the church's mission in the following areas:

- ***Global Mission Committee***

This committee would represent the interests of the current World Mission and USA/Canada Mission Committees. Evangelism and church planting would be primary concerns of this committee.

- ***Global Ministries and Services Committee***

This committee would give oversight to SDMI, NYI, and NMI as well as NCM and World Mission Literature. It would give attention to local church resources from General Board entities, to *Holiness Today*, NCN, and other communication interests, and to other functions as may be deemed necessary for oversight.

- ***Global Education and Clergy Development Committee***

This committee would give oversight to the global educational enterprise, IBOE, clergy preparation, clergy development, and other such interests related to education and ministry.

- ***Global Administration and Finance Committee***

The General Secretary and General Treasurer and their departments would work with this committee in establishing effective policies and procedures.

While policy belongs to the General Board, the management of the Global Ministry Center resides with the Board of General Superintendents.

The Board of General Superintendents studied the referral from the 2005 General Assembly (GA-310) to merge the World Mission and USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Departments. It believes the creation of a new, single Global Mission Committee is a better solution to relationships and structure inside the Global Ministry Center than simply merging two departments.

The Global Mission Committee is a unified effort to reach those who do not know Jesus as Savior and Lord and to help them become Christlike disciples.

This proposed change in no way diminishes our historical commitment to the missionary enterprise of the church. What the Board is recommending would take better advantage of the wide range of experiences from every region—a benefit that comes with being an international community of faith.

### The Budget Formula

The BGS also voted in December 2008 to recommend a new WEF allocation formula of 5.5 percent for the entire global Church of the Nazarene.

This proposed global formula, if approved by the General Board, would take effect as soon as practicable. It is based on current year income and no deductions. This is intended to create greater global ownership, participation, and support of the World Evangelism Fund—in addition to giving within the regions for special missional projects.

In addition, the BGS is recommending the following USA formula:

#### **Proposed USA Budget Formula**

World Evangelism Fund (WEF)	5.5%
Pensions & Benefits (P&B) Fund	2.0%
Education	2.5%
District	To be determined

The USA formula, if approved, would take effect with the 2010 district assemblies. It, too, is based on current year income and no deductions.

District budgets in the USA, which are a vital part of the mission funding of the church, would be in addition to these categories and percentages. Each district would set its own budget based on district missional priorities. It should be noted that the Board of General Superintendents does not have authority to determine district budgets.

These four budgets—WEF, P&B, Education, and District—form the core of local church mission and connectional giving in the United States.

The Board's recommendation is based on the work of the Budget Allocation Committee chaired by Bob Brower, president of Point Loma Nazarene University, San Diego, California, USA, and in consultation with the Committee.

The BGS is committed to the mission of our denomination even in the face of difficult days in the world economy. Our financial commitment reaches not only to world evangelism but also to those who participate in the Pensions & Benefits Fund and to the essential ministries of our colleges, universities, and seminaries.

The Budget Allocation Committee began this study of the budget formula with the goal of developing a simple, fair, and equitable system to finance the global ministries of the church. Simplification of the budget system has been a driving force for change among pastors and district superintendents in the various studies that have been conducted over the years.

The BGS recommendation for WEF, Pensions & Benefits Fund, and Education now goes to the USA National Board and the General Board for a decision during its annual meeting in February 2009 per *Manual* paragraphs 317.12 and 334.8.

The current formula, which has been the subject of much discussion and review for some time, is based on complex calculations determined by the previous year's expenditures in the local church. The new formula recommendations would be determined by a simple and straightforward percentage of current income.

Beyond the Global WEF formula, all additional budget allocation formulae for nations other than the United States would be determined by the appropriate regional, national, or district boards or committees.

Due to a higher financial base, the proposed formula should actually produce a major increase for Pensions & Benefits and a nominal increase for Education, while generating a smaller amount for WEF than the current formula in the United States.

One objective in this proposed change has been to have more money in the local church for ministry. The Great Commission is to be carried out within the Body of Christ. Reducing denominational budgets, where possible, is an attempt to make this a reality.

### **The Journey Forward**

As the church is tested during this economic crisis, let us keep in mind that our 100-year-old denomination has been in this situation before—perhaps not exactly the way it is currently, but it has weathered tough times.

When this happened ...

- The mission was slowed but never stopped.
- The financial resources were limited—but Nazarenes never ceased giving.
- God raised up leaders to deal with the challenges.

The church regained momentum and continued its mission and outreach to a needy world.

As a result of the faithfulness of Nazarenes over ten decades, there are now indigenous leaders in place to assume the mantle of responsibility for the Nazarene future across the globe.

What did church leaders believe a century ago that would strengthen our identity and mission for a second century?

1. In 1908 the Church of the Nazarene believed in the doctrine of holiness. The first general superintendent, Phineas Bresee, speaking of holiness, called it, “the northern star of perfect love.”
2. The church in 1908 believed in evangelism, defined as converting the lost and securing such believers in holiness of heart and life.
3. The 1908 group believed in missions. They were preeminently a missionary church, recognizing no boundaries.
4. In 1908 Nazarenes believed in compassion. They believed their mandate was to provide ministry and service by the power of the Holy Spirit to the poor, marginalized, and disenfranchised.
5. Those early Nazarenes in 1908 believed in holiness higher education with an intense desire to weld together illuminated minds and hearts passionate to win the lost for Christ. Several of our colleges and universities were actually founded before our official birth date of 1908.
6. Finally, those Nazarenes were a Great Commission church. The visionary task of their leaders lay before them, yet to be completed. Whether it was the neglected peoples within the hidden corners of impoverished cities or unknown people groups a world away, the Great Commission challenged them to their very core.

Do Nazarenes still believe these things?

The answer is a resounding “YES!” Yes, 21<sup>st</sup>-century Nazarenes still believe in holiness, in evangelism, in missions, in compassion, in holiness higher education, and in continuing to be a Great Commission church.

This is no time to let the banner slip; instead, we should raise it a little higher on the standard and proclaim to a world hungry for hope that God raised up the Church of the Nazarene to be Christian, holiness, and missional!

How does the church transfer the mission and message to a new generation? General Board time is but one example of when and how this happens. Let us draw on the great strengths of our church as we journey forward with God.

While not all are called to be missionaries, there is something about the “missionary spirit” that is a Nazarene birthright—a source of inspiration and hope for everyone today.

What is that spirit?

- It is a spirit of faith and obedience.
- It is a spirit of exploration.
- It is a spirit of service.
- It is a spirit of sacrifice.
- It is a spirit of prayer and humility.

May this same missionary spirit, which is also the Spirit of God, dwell in us as we continue making Christlike disciples in the nations until the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely;  
and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete,  
without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass”  
I Thessalonians 5:23–24 (NASB).

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,

Board of General Superintendents

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