

# CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

## Board of General Superintendents

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Dear Pastors and Leaders,

Following His resurrection, Jesus met with His followers in Galilee and greeted them with words of peace. This was a season of transition as the disciples moved into an unknown future. While we navigate this season of COVID-19, we are also journeying with the disciples from Easter on the path that leads us to Pentecost.

At Pentecost, Jesus' followers were filled with the Holy Spirit and empowered for service in ways that they had never imagined. In the same way, we believe that God can use this time to bring about spiritual transformation in our personal lives and that of the church. In quiet contemplation, we live in God's peace, even amid unrest. This is the place where we discover the depths of God's great love and the strength that comes from Him alone in, prayerful preparation for ministry in the days ahead.

The global network of the Church of the Nazarene provides an opportunity for us to minister through our many local churches. We are grateful for the ways that all of you continue to bring messages of hope to your communities. The **Local Church Ministries** of the global church are working hard to support all of you during this time.

**Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI)** is working to provide resources that specifically speak to the current crisis. A 14-day devotional series, ["Hope in the Midst"](#) has been developed and is available for use. Beginning this week, The Foundry will be partnering with SDMI, and Dr. Scott Rainey will be teaching the *Faith Connections* Sunday school class by video for those local churches who want to utilize this resource to supplement their Sunday school/Christian education needs. The materials and links can be found on the [Foundry Leader](#) page (free of charge). The [Foundry Publishing](#) has many resources available that can help you with remote study and digital downloads.

**Nazarene Missions International (NMI)** is intentionally trying to find new ways to connect and resource churches and districts. Many churches and districts have done an outstanding job of reaching out to our missionaries so that they can participate in a digital deputation. We encourage churches to invite a missionary to speak via Zoom or another digital platform. Additionally, NMI is partnering with the Board of General Superintendents during this time for a special prayer emphasis. Every Wednesday, a new prayer challenge is sent out via the Prayer Mobilization Line. If you are not receiving this resource, you can view the most [recent editions](#) and [subscribe](#) to get the most recent update.


**Nazarene Youth International (NYI)** is working to respond to the needs of the crisis among our young people, while at the same time keeping the focus on current strategies and initiatives. This includes partnering with the regions and supporting the work of evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development. Responding to the needs of our more than 400,000 young Nazarenes around the world, the NYI [leadership team](#) is connecting with our regional leaders to develop strategies for engagement. Check out these [Instagram conversations](#) with youth leaders in Eurasia.

**Global Education and Clergy Development (GECD)** welcomes our new director, [Dr. Klaus Arnold](#). As a result of COVID-19, all of the USA/Canada PALCONS for this year have been canceled, along with a number of events from other global regions. However, the team has been partnering with SDMI to provide pastoral support by way of [webinars](#)—last week alone over 300 pastors participated. Digital [prayer rooms](#), where pastors can find prayer support during these challenging days, have also been created. GECD is also partnering with every regional education coordinator to review ways to support our many theological schools and colleges to fulfill their mission and to assess their long-term plans for sustainability.

As always, know that you are much appreciated and prayed for. We continue to see positive developments of the church responding to the needs around them. We invite you to [tell us your stories of hope](#) that can be shared to encourage the church and welcome your [feedback or questions](#). We are in this together, and God is with us.

Grace and peace to you,

Board of General Superintendents



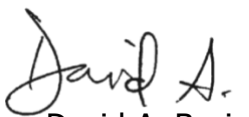
Filimão M. Chambo



Eugénio R. Duarte



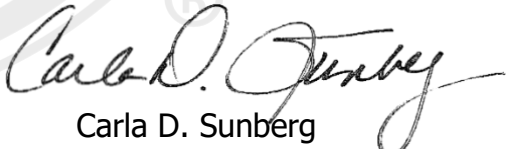
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