



**General Superintendent Dr. David Graves, National Director Dr. Ian Fitzpatrick,  
District Superintendent Rev. Steve Ottley, Pastors, Local NMI Presidents, Delegates and  
Friends:**

With deepest gratitude, I present to you my thirteenth District NMI President's report

I have been intrigued, in these days of COVID-19, by the varied means through which numerous individuals are coming to the aid of those requiring help and kindness. It is compassionate. It is generous. It is necessary. It is wonderful, and not to be diminished. I, as many of you, I'm sure, have participated. Of course, my prayer is that such concerns and endeavours will continue.

But, they have also taken me to a different place of thought, to Ezekiel 37, and having sat under the inspired preaching of Dr. Gustavo Crocker, at the *Power of One* conference in Bangladesh in 2012. Yes. That long ago. I was impacted, so I remember.

Ezekiel 37: 1-10 reads this way.

*The hand of the LORD was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"*

*I said, "Sovereign LORD, you alone know."*

*Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'"*

*So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.*

*Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that*

*they may live.” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.*

Dr. Crocker shared that organizations, even ones with Christian origins, can come with aid money (rattling bones), professionals (flesh), and expertise (tendons), but what have you? Still, a limp corpse without life. Funds, programs and strategies fade away. Sustainable life prevails only if the Spirit of God is present. The Church of the Nazarene, filled by the Spirit of God, is an ambassador of the kingdom of God to people who need the Lord.

Nazarene Missions International (NMI) is neither program nor acronym, but is driven by a passion for the lost.

These are the occasions of the past year purposed to engage you with mission opportunities and stories, and inspire passion.

**Convention 2019:** The District NMI council excitedly collaborated with District Assembly and the NYI and SDMI conventions at the inaugural Family Reunion one year ago.

Friday morning, we participated in a concert of prayer led by Kerby Stavropoulos. Our Saturday morning began with National Director Ian Fitzpatrick encouraging us to greet each new day in anticipation of the adventure it will be with God. Donning his Global Missions hat, he then introduced to us the new Nazarene Missions rollout.

Greetings from Global NMI council representative, Penny Ure, and reports by District NMI President, Bev. Crossley, District NMI Treasurer, Gord Evans and Elaine Bumstead of partner organization Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada were followed by introductions to our new Links missionaries, Anthony and Barbara Manswell of Trinidad and Tobago and Deputation missionaries, Dr. Bill and Marsha McCoy.

It was our privilege to sponsor the Ministry With Others (MWO) adventure that connected children, youth and adults with the Toronto Emmanuel Church of the Nazarene community by the building of home gardens. We were grateful to Pastor Bill and his team for the chance to be supportive in this way.

**Family Camp:** Our Family Camp missions service last year did not come with a traditional missionary speaker, but it did come with a General Superintendent, Dr. Gustavo Crocker. Well, perhaps not in person, but it was our pleasure to share Dr. Crocker’s new Nazarene missions address, which was originally given to the General Board and guest District NMI Presidents in February of this year.

Over the course of the past four years, the Board of General Superintendents and General Board members worked to clarify, reframe and unify the message of Nazarene missions. It answers these essential questions.

- What is the contemporary purpose of Nazarene Missions?
- What types of ministries are part of Nazarene Missions today?
- How do we fund Nazarene Missions?
- Who is a Nazarene missionary?
- How many types of missionaries do we have?
- What is the process to send and become missionaries?

Our evening was concluded by Rev. Donna Wilson, Mission Call Coordinator for Canada Central District. She astutely shared of the two Sauls of the Bible; King Saul who received a call of God and disobeyed, and Saul become Paul who heard God's call and obeyed. Our prayer that evening was that God would call Nazarenes on Canada Central to be missionaries, and we would be obedient in response, affirmation, encouragement and sending.

**Deputation:** Canada Central was privileged to receive Bill and Marsha McCoy from October 22 through 27, 2019. They visited 8 churches in the 6 days.

This lovely couple, retiring from 30+ years of ministry as missionaries, shared with us from their work at Kudjip Nazarene Hospital in Papua New Guinea.

They shared a look at medical missions, and their video can still be seen at the following link. As Marsha said, "remember it is a medical video".

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3MwCewhQSYZVWJXNDVMVFRSNFU/edit?usp=sharing>

Dr. Bill encouraged us with Jesus' words to Peter to "put out into **deep** water, and let down the nets for a catch", as he shared stories of the presence, healing and power of God. We are forever grateful for his testimony and admonition to go deeper.

**Links:** We were assigned new Links missionaries for three years (2019-2022) . . . Anthony and Barbara Manswell, and still-at-home son, Jerrick.

The Manswells are assigned to serve at Caribbean Nazarene College which is located in Trinidad, but serves the entire English-speaking Caribbean.

As local churches, please encourage Anthony and Barbara by sharing life together, praying for each other, communicating as often as possible, and giving as you feel moved by the Holy Spirit.

**The Prez:** It has been my honour to serve as President this past year, and in these additional ways.

- I attended the Grow Hope Markdale Foodgrains Bank celebration in August of 2019.
- Esther Bookhoo and I were able to visit with our dear friend and former District NMI Council member, Clair Ann Keodprom, before her passing from cancer, also in August.

And then to attend her homegoing celebration. On your behalf, and at Clair Ann's wishes, a donation was made to Ambrose University.

- In January of 2020, Rev. Donna Wilson, Esther Boodoo, Cynthia Knight and I proceeded to the District Leadership Conference in Daytona Beach for missions training.
- A personal trip to the Cuba East district, with Rev. Donna Wilson, afforded the opportunity to encourage and fellowship with Deysi Simales, Cuba East District NMI President and Rev. Armando Viera, Cuba East District NCM Coordinator.
- I prepared our *In the Loop* submissions.
- I trust I was a help to those who made missions inquiries on a variety of topics.
- I enjoyed multiple Zoom meetings with Global and National leadership.

**Giving:** Unfortunately, at the writing of this report, I was unable to secure the giving amounts for World Evangelism Fund and Missions Specials. I will provide them, as soon as they are available, via *In the Loop*. Nevertheless, thank you for your faithfulness to give and pray for Nazarene mission work everywhere.

**Thanks:** I serve with a team of individuals who are the strength of the District NMI council, and who give of themselves with humility and grace. Words are insufficient to thank them, but thank them I must. Thank you, from the depths of my heart, Donna Wilson (vice-president), Esther Boodhoo (secretary), Gord Evans (treasurer), Cynthia Knight (Links), Thomas Stubbington, Edna Smith-Bowes (deputation), Jerold Boodhoo (work & witness/hearts with hands), Arthur McClelland and Urcilla Rodney (zone representatives) and District Superintendent Steve Ottley.

**Conclusion:** It has already been announced that I am stepping away from the position of President, not allowing my name to stand for re-election, but I wish for you to know that this is done with the full assurance that God has willed it. As each term has previously ended, I have always sought the Lord's direction, always choosing to allow my name to be presented unless He would reveal otherwise. I have proceeded no differently, listening to God's Spirit, seeking godly counsel and taking a look at circumstances. As I come to the end of this report, I do so with great anticipation for what lies ahead under new leadership. I bubble over with excitement and joy.

Father God, please continue to equip us and use us in your redemptive mission as you graciously bring peace to sinners. Help us to see people more like you do so that we would grow in our boldness to share the gospel with others. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bev. Crossley