



Nazarene Missions INTERNATIONAL

Church of the Nazarene, Global Ministry Center

Our Mission

To mobilize the church in mission through praying, discipling, giving, and educating

Daniel D. Ketchum, Ph.D. • NMI Director

Dear Pastor and NMI President,

Warmest greetings in the name of Jesus, our resurrected Lord! He lives...and He is building His church around the world. You might have received this letter by email earlier this week.

When I was a young boy, I enjoyed hearing the story of David and Goliath and the chorus we sang that ended with these triumphant words, "...and the giant came tumbling down!" We face "giants" often. God still uses His humble, obedient, faith-filled servants to conquer giants. Every "David" is convinced that nothing is impossible with God.

I believe you are a "David" in a very crucial moment in the history of the Church of the Nazarene.

Because of the change in the formula for World Evangelism Fund (WEF) and the global economic recession, a very real "Goliath" confronts us. We have already initiated significant, strategic reductions at the Global Ministry Center in order to move WEF to the field. **We are currently facing the prospect of a drastic cut in our missionary force.** Let me explain:

As you may already know, our church leadership responded to the call of our churches to simplify the WEF giving. As a result, this year all churches at their district assemblies are implementing a new worldwide system. Many churches and pastors have expressed a great deal of excitement in regard to this new funding plan because it is accomplishing exactly what they requested. Not only is this new funding plan simpler, it is also designed to stimulate growth at the local church level by reducing the percentage of WEF income most churches will give.

However, this reduction in WEF percentage does create a special short-term challenge for the global church. As we transition from the old funding plan to the new one, it has been estimated that we could lose as much as \$13.5 million dollars in WEF income per year. The good news is that this loss should exist only in the short term (3 to 5 years).

With the effect of the lower WEF contributions combined with a very proactive focus on stewardship training, we will see local church income increase by as much as 30 percent over the next five years. Therefore, five years from now the new funding plan has the potential of producing more income than the old funding plan. So, again, let me emphasize that the challenge we are facing is only for the short term. The bad news is that even though this giant's life cycle may be short, because of its sheer size, the damage to ministry will be great unless we intercede and bring this giant "tumbling down!"

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Nazarenes have always been a generous people. As a result, our denomination is a powerful spiritual movement worldwide. We are experiencing tremendous growth in many nations. Opportunities beckon to us as never before. But this "Goliath" is real and stands before us!

King Saul and his army cowered in fear, but David stepped up to the challenge. He conquered in the name of the Lord. We Nazarenes face the same choices – fear or faith, retreat or advance.

I believe you are the "David" in your church. The 2010 Thanksgiving offering provides a key moment for us to stand together in victory. I will describe next why your role is crucial and vital.

Our General Superintendents are asking that the Thanksgiving offering this year be "above and beyond" regular WEF giving. They are asking for a **WEF PLUS** offering – an offering in addition to the WEF contribution from your church that is based on 5.5% of current church income. We need you to make your regular 5.5% WEF contributions and to encourage your congregation to give to this extra Thanksgiving **WEF PLUS** offering also.

Our global **WEF PLUS** offering features four key components:

Prevailing Prayer. Please begin now to challenge everyone in your church to pray for the largest Thanksgiving offering in the history of our denomination.

Love Offering. This offering is above denominational obligations and commitments. It flows from hearts filled with God's love and a passion to reach a lost world for Christ. Each local church sends this **WEF PLUS** offering in addition to regular WEF giving.

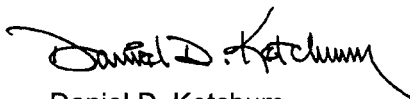
Unanimous Participation. We need every person in every church worldwide to give. Children, teens and adults are included.

Strategic Sacrifice. We are asking every Nazarene to give sacrificially. This could mean a child gives ten dollars in coins they collected while an adult gives one day's salary. Again, we want every Nazarene to participate. If each cannot give a day's salary, we want each to consider giving at least \$10 beyond their normal Thanksgiving offering for WEF.

Pastor and NMI President, please talk together soon about **WEF PLUS**. Please begin now praying, planning, and preparing for this offering. We will offer many tools to assist you in promotion. A **WEF PLUS** offering can keep our missionaries on the fields and our denomination advancing to accomplish His mission in spite of the current financial challenges.

We must reach our world for Christ. We dare not allow economic problems to detain or stop us. Together, we can conquer the "giant"! Thank you in advance for your vital role in **WEF PLUS**.

Gratefully in Christ,



Daniel D. Ketchum
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