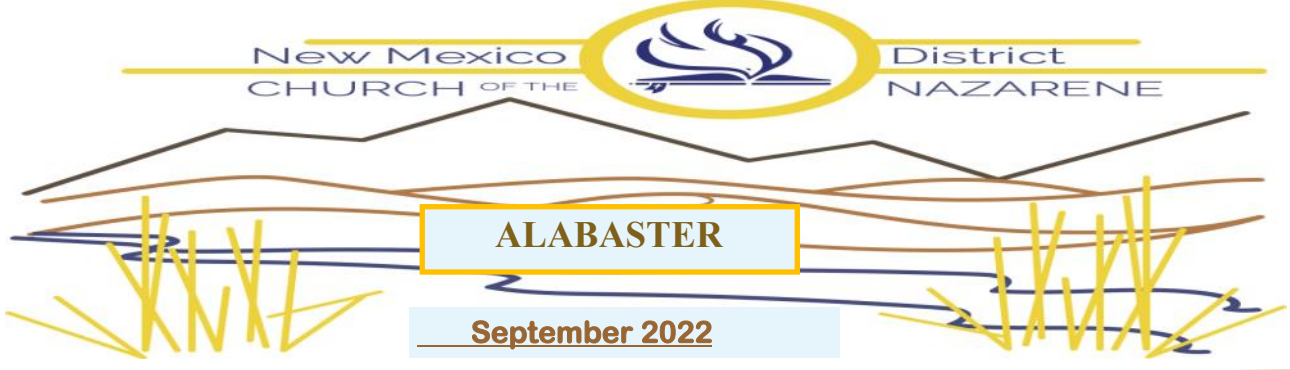




Dr. Lawrence Lacher  
District Superintendent



### Closed System

Throughout this season of Covid, many of us have experienced what it is like to enter a closed system. If you have been a patient or have had a loved-one as a patient in the hospital, you have probably experienced what it is like to enter or to be kept out of a closed system. I've heard of many people who have been kept away from their loved one for days or weeks because the hospital would not allow them access to them, due to the fear of spreading Covid. So many have even passed from this world without their loved ones around because Covid kept them away while they took their final breaths in a sealed room that was negatively pressurized saying, 'Goodbye' to a screen held by a PPE-clad nurse who could only be recognized by the tear in her eye.

Watching these things happen made me realize that many Christians live their lives within a closed system as well. I have often challenged Christians in my churches to invite their unchurched friends and neighbors to a special event only to hear in response, "We don't know anyone who doesn't go to church," or "We have already asked everyone we know."

It has been said that the average Christian has no unsaved friends within five years of their conversion. In other words, when someone comes to Christ, on average, within five years, they live their lives within a closed system.

I have to wonder how that can be true when we have to go to work and school and restaurants and stores and banks and soccer practice and baseball games and a thousand other places every week in a world where fewer than 40% of people attend church of any kind? How can it be that Christians do not know anyone who needs to meet Jesus in a world where virtually everyone we bump into needs to meet Jesus?

The only answer is that we have *chosen* to isolate ourselves in our sanitary systems so that we don't risk infection by the sinners that are all around us. We have become like hospital emergency rooms who send sick patients home, because a hospital is no place for sick people to be. Meanwhile, the church is hanging onto life, gasping for breath, wondering why no one is coming to see her.

The first step back to post-covid church health will be for you and me to begin getting serious about getting out of our isolation and starting to make intentional friendships with people who need to meet Jesus. It is not hard to do. It is not even that scary.

If you want to learn how, join us for EMT training at El Paso Open Gate on September 23-24.

**Our country is in crisis, we need to train more EMT's. Come join the army of people ready to make a difference!**

### Dr. Larry

NM District website:  
[www.nmnaz.com](http://www.nmnaz.com)

District Office:  
300 Bonita Park Rd  
Capitan, NM 88316

District Phone:  
575-626-1116

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**Evangelism Multiplication Training**

Learn how to move from being a "Member to a Multiplier"

**Schedule:**  
September 23-24  
Friday 6:30PM-8:30PM  
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM

**Location:**  
El Paso Open Gate

This training will teaching you to "see the harvest" and to engage people in your daily routines in ways that lead them into redemptive en-

# Look back in Pictures

2022 New Mexico District Conventions and Assembly

109th Annual Meeting—Heights 1st CON

Theme: “What Difference Are You Making?”





Greetings, NM District!

What a fantastic summer we had! I thoroughly enjoyed getting to connect with so many of you at District events this past summer. From Convention to Kid's Camp, Teen Camp, and Family Camp, we had a wonderful time gathering as a District family week after week!

Our District Convention was a wonderful time of information, encouragement, celebration, and a challenge to continue as a people of mission in this world. We had a phenomenal speaker, Amanda Petit, the director of Rescue Hill in Arlington, TX. We were able to bless their ministry with a generous donation and partner with them in their ministry to rescue women. If you have not checked it out yet, please find Rescue Hill on Facebook to keep up to date with the work they are doing and the lives that are being changed.

At Family Camp we had a wonderful time with Drs. Jaron and Elizabeth Graham and were able to get an update about the ministry they have been leading in New Zealand the past seven years. Our district offering was, again, above and beyond and we were able to partner with Nazarene Theological College and the education of Nazarene leaders on the other side of the world. We are praying for the Grahams as they begin their new journey of pastoring in Beaverton, Oregon.

As we move forward into fall, a new school year, and a shift in routine, I would love to hear from all of you about your plans to be missional and engage people in your cities. I would love to receive emails, updates, and prayer requests about your projects, ministries, and connections for the upcoming year.

### LINKS !!

We have been assigned a new Links family for our district. We will all have the same Links family to love on and support for the next year or so. With the new organization, we will just remain flexible with Global NMI as they roll out policy and assignment updates. Several of you have asked me for a current mailing address for our new family, but I do not have that information quite yet. I will share it as soon as I have it. This is the information I currently have about our Links family:

Names: Scarlet and Esdras Jimenez

Email: [sjimenez@samnaz.org](mailto:sjimenez@samnaz.org)

Languages Spoken: English, Spanish

Online Missionary Profile: <https://missionary.nazarene.org/u/Esdras-and-Scarlet-Jimenez>



### Youth Leaders!!!!

**October 1 is right around the corner for the 1st NYC Payment due**

Date Payment is Due	Cost PER PERSON
October 1, 2022	\$450
November 1, 2022	\$250
December 1, 2022	\$250
January 1, 2023	\$250
February 1, 2023	\$250
March 1, 2023	\$250
April 1, 2023	\$250
May 1, 2023	\$250
June 1, 2023	\$100



### Travel Schedule:

Below is the tentative travel schedule for our district:

- Wednesday, July 5
  - Travel to Tampa Bay
  - NYC Registration
  - Check into Hotel
  - Field Event
- Thursday, July 6
  - NYC Events
- Friday, July 7
  - NYC Events
- Saturday, July 8
  - NYC Events
- Sunday, July 9
  - NYC Events
  - District Event
- Monday, July 10
  - Travel back to New Mexico

**Outreach of our Church families**



Roswell 1st

I'm so excited to have won the 33rd New Mexico State Disc Golf Championships in the Amateur Masters 40+ division!

**Connor Bryan**



**Church Street CON**

adults \$8  
kids \$5



tripunto folk art  
hoop art  
various holiday themes  
Brenda S-Sheats

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2022 AT 9 AM – 2 PM

**Rio Vista Church of the Nazarene Annual Women's Ministry Craft Fair**



**Living Hope Church of the Naz.**

If your children like to learn a book of the Bible. Come to Living Hope Church of the Nazarene to learn about Kids and Teen Bible Quizzing.

There is an Open House on Saturday August 27, 2022 at 10 am. in the church. Call 715 776 0694 if you have any questions.



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2022 AT 7 AM

**Priscilla Shirer Going Beyond—Simulcast**

Open Gate Community CON



Hope Harbor welcomed the W&W team from Anaheim District CON- for a week of Lots of work and Lots of Fun!



Thank you to all the churches and individuals who donated items to go in the Hope Harbor welcome bags.



**Hope Harbor—Lorna Fike**



Every Wed night at Roswell 1st



Angus CON



Portales CON



These two handsome guys are off to play at Ricketts field! Go Hayden, the Avengers, and all teams!!!

Special Olympics New Mexico!

**Pastor Dave West and grandson Hayden**

Angus Kids 4th of July Float



**Crossroads Community CON**

Sunday, September 11  
9:00 a.m. Breakfast  
10:00 a.m. Service  
RSVP to 325-2600

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2022**



**Family of God Adventure Camp!**

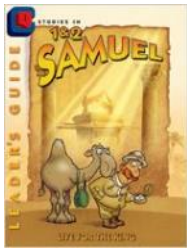
4 days of Adventures designed by

**New Beginnings CON**

**Alamagordo**



## Children's District Quiz Dates and Locations 2022– 2023



**NM District Childrens  
BIBLE Quizzing**

**1&2 Samuel**

**Children's  
Quizzing**

**1st Grade-6th Grade**

-NM District Quiz Director- Pastor Arthur  
-NM Children's Director - Pastor Sherri

Oct. 8 - Carlsbad  
Nov. 12 - Angus  
Jan. 14 - HFC  
Feb 11- La Vista  
March 4 - Sandia  
May 13 -Regionals  
-PLNU  
June 10 -World Quiz  
-Indianapolis, Indiana

\$5.00 a person  
for Lunch  
\$5.00 a kid each  
Quiz meet

hideandkeep.com  
thefoundarypublishing  
com  
FB NM District  
Children's Bible  
Quizzing

PLEASE MARK THESE  
DATES ON YOUR  
CALENDAR Quiz Coaches!



### Baseball Field of Hope– Mission ABO & Mission Training Center

Community pitches in for South Valley field. An overgrown and weed-strewn baseball field in the South Valley is proving to be the gift that keeps on giving.

Located behind the Mission Training Center on Markham SW, the field is being scraped and leveled to prepare it for a new layer of red clay soil; a Bobcat front-end earth mover is being used to teach people how to operate heavy machinery; and an elm tree that was sharing its bounty along the first base line was severely trimmed, and the branches and leaves will be used to feed giraffes, zebras and elephants at the ABQ BioPark Zoo.

The “Ball Field of Hope” is a joint project of Mission ABQ/Mission Training Center [affiliated with Sandia Valley Nazarene Church], which owns the property; the United Way of Central New Mexico, which donated \$7,000; and Catholic Charities Center for Educational Opportunity and Career Pathways, which was looking for land to use for students in their heavy equipment operator course, said Sarah Azibo, community impact manager with United Way.

**Pastor Patti Rivas**

### Getting to know our New pastoral families on the New Mexico District

Please Welcome Revs Joe and Debbie Birdsall to Trinity Church of the Nazarene where they were just installed as the Co-pastors! They were on the mission field in Korea for 6 years. They have been living in the Denver, Colorado area since coming off the mission field. They felt God leading them to the border for their next ministry. They called Dr. Lacher to share their burden, he was excited to have them come down to meet him in El Paso, and now here they are. Moved down to live in the parsonage as they begin to lean into what God is leading them and the congregation on this new adventure.



#### How to help

Volunteers are being sought for a Sept. 17 “Day of Caring” to help create accessible paths to the ball field and other landscaping features. An online volunteer sign-up form is available at [uwcnm.org/day-of-caring](http://uwcnm.org/day-of-caring).

### Up Coming Important Dates for the New Mexico District

District EMT Training    Open Gate CON    Sept 23-24

#### September

Mid Year Meetings                      Oct 21 & 22

#### October

Board of Ministry                      Nov 9 & 10

#### November

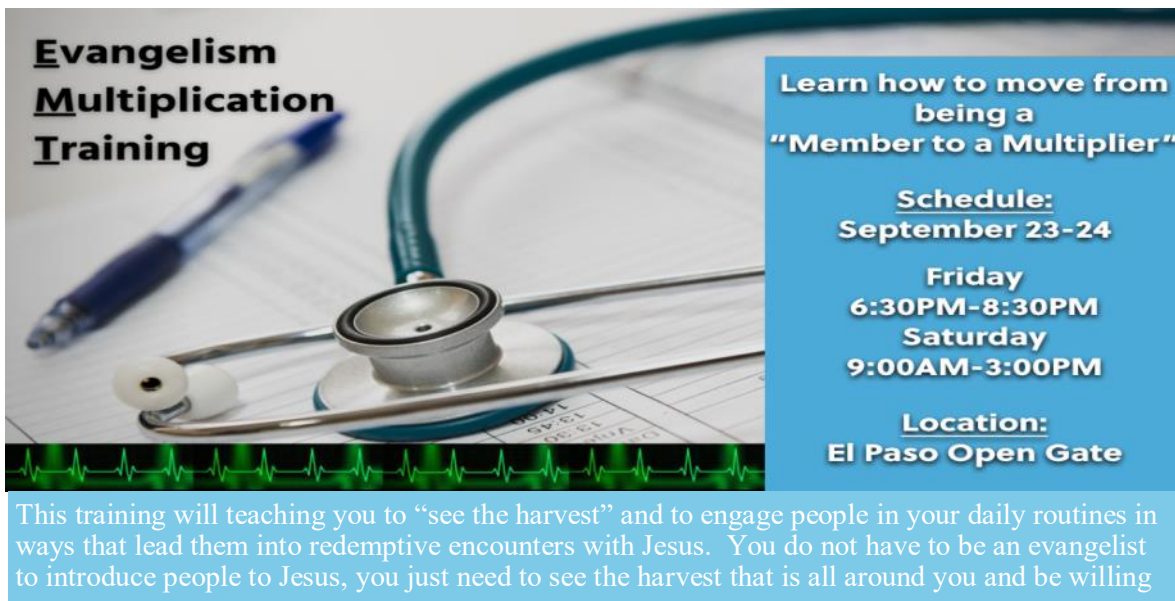
Leadership Retreat ( All Senior Pastors and staff including spouses)                      Nov 10 –12\*\*\*\*\*

Thurs at 5pm—Sat at noon  
With Dr. Carla Sundberg



Mark your calendars to bring yourselves and your church members. Come and be excited to be the church in your communities.

Please email Dr. Pete Myers with questions and registrations: [Pastorpete@abqnaz.org](mailto:Pastorpete@abqnaz.org)



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Multiplication  
Training**

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**Location:**  
El Paso Open Gate

This training will teaching you to "see the harvest" and to engage people in your daily routines in ways that lead them into redemptive encounters with Jesus. You do not have to be an evangelist to introduce people to Jesus, you just need to see the harvest that is all around you and be willing



**ALABASTER  
OFFERING**

Your gift to the Alabaster offering is a gift of hope to thousands in every corner of the world, because you choose to pour out the love God has lavished on you.

**GIVE NOW**  
[nazarene.org/alabaster](http://nazarene.org/alabaster)

September is  
**ALABASTER**  
Month.

[NMI - Alabaster | Church of the Nazarene](http://NMI - Alabaster | Church of the Nazarene)

For information and resources



**THE 30<sup>TH</sup>  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY  
& CONVENTIONS**

9-16 JUNE 2023  
INDIANAPOLIS  
INDIANA, USA

[nazarene.org/generalassembly](http://nazarene.org/generalassembly)

Use this General Assembly address to keep up to date with all information for:

Reservations, Registrations, workshops, worship times etc. This is your 1 stop place for everything General Assembly 2023

Keep up to date on our district happenings!!!!

Don't say "I didn't Know that!"

[www.nmnaz.com](http://www.nmnaz.com)

Calendar, Department events, The Mission etc