



January 2021

Monkey Bars



Dr. Larry Lacher
District Superintendent

As I reflect on the year 2020, there are so many emotions that flood my mind. It was an especially challenging years in many ways. From COVID, to congregational care, to worship, to the election, to zoom and virtual everything, to trying to keep ourselves, our households, our business, and our churches going, this year has had challenges we never thought we would face. Many have had to say “goodbye” to loved ones over telephone and computer screens. Many have not yet had the opportunity to hold a grandchild or to celebrate a proper wedding. Graduations were delayed, then driven through. Schools started, stopped, started, stopped again. Sports have been delayed, then canceled. Virtually every aspect of our lives has been disrupted, delayed, or distanced in the last 12 months. I know that I will be glad to see 2020 in the rearview mirror.

However, before we speed away from 2020, let’s take time to spend extra time with our families, and to rest from our regular flurry of activities. A number of people I know have actually had opportunities this year that only come around once in a lifetime.

Now, let’s reach forward. I am thinking of monkey bars, which I enjoyed playing on when I was fifty-years younger. If you remember, you will recall that the only way to get from one end of the run to the other was to reach out while letting go. Hanging onto both the new bar without letting go of the old bar only got you stuck. But, if you could develop a rhythm of grabbing on and letting go, you could propel yourself clear across the ladder.

Paul captures this idea for us in Philippians 3:13-14: “But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

In a lot of ways, 2020 was icky (to use a theological term). To propel yourself into the next great adventure God has for you, you are going to have to let go of some things and reach forward into the unknown.

There are two words that describe that action: Faith and Hope.

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Phone: 575-626-1116

District website:
www.nmnaz.com

District Office:
300 Bonita Park Rd
Capitan, NM 88316

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE DISTRICT 2021

- 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting: Jan 10-31 (See the information pg 3)
- Camp Board Update: Feb.20
- NYI Extreme: March 12-14
- Ladies Retreat: March 19-21
- Palm Sunday: March 28:
- Easter Sunday: April 4:
- Year end Meetings: April 8-10
- Man Camp: April 23-25
- Church Year ends: April 30



Happy New Year, NM District!

I pray this year brings you closeness with the Father as you seek to build His Kingdom in your fields of ministry!

With the New Year comes new vision and dreams as we move forward into new plans for our ministries. Have you utilized the Education Resources at: <https://nazarene.org/who-we-are/organization/ministries/nazarene-missions-international/curriculum> with your congregation yet?

These lessons are available for free and serve to involve everyone in the plan God has for mission through the Church of the Nazarene.

"This year's theme is meant to help us "fine-tune" our focus on missions as a church and to understand our individual and local church role(s) in carrying out that mission to God's glory. Such "fine-tuning" will bring people into focus!

This curriculum consists of **12 lessons with suggested additional resources such as websites, videos, books, recipes, and articles**

Through stories and scriptures and missions principles, a vivid tapestry is woven with the threads of passion for the lost, sacrificial giving, and joy in serving the eternal purposes of God in missions."

Thank you to all of you who filled out the Mid-Year Survey for NMI! The information you shared with me helps me to better understand how I can support you in your roles at your churches. Your feedback is valuable and greatly appreciated! From the results of these surveys I am developing better ways to connect with all of you and hopefully to encourage and help equip you better in your area of ministry.

Beginning the last Tuesday of January, I will be hosting monthly NMI Focused Zooms to share NMI information, updates, encouragement, and share in times of prayer with all of you. Some of the themes we will cover in the next few months will include: local NMI President role, Links, Alabaster, Prayer, Education, World Mission Broadcast, Jesus Film, Deputation, Work and Witness, Compassionate Ministries, Funding the Mission, NMI Reports, and local ministries. My prayer is that these times are effective in equipping you further in your roles in the Kingdom and the Mission of God. I will send out the Zoom information in an email as the date approaches. I look forward to gathering with many of you!

You are in my prayers as you navigate ministry in 2021 and as you are the hands and feet of Christ in your communities!

Joyfully,
Nicole Young

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."
Isaiah 43:19 NIV

Please be watching for the new NMI Monthly Focused Zooms!

Nicole will be sending out the needed information for each as the time gets closer.

1st one will be Jan. 30



Seeking God's leading in the New Year 2021

21 Days of Prayer and Fasting with the New Mexico District

With the end of COVID on the horizon, it is time to focus our hearts on the next great thing God wants to do in the church.

I am proposing that we join together in 21 days of fasting and prayer, January 10-31. These three weeks will be designed around three themes:

Repent, Restore, Rebuild.

Those who choose to participate will be sent an email devotional each of the week days for the time period. The devotional will provide a short scripture/ thought/ and prayer prompt.

For the 21 days (weekdays) we will also meet for prayer at 7:00 am and 9:00 p.m. via zoom (choose one).

These weeks will allow us to press in and prepare for the turning of the corner with God. **To participate, I just need an email sent to lalacher@nmnaz.com.**



Week day prayers on Zoom: 7:00 am and 9:00pm



EVERY MONDAY Dr. Lacher leads a Leadership ZOOM for our ministry leaders at 2 different times to better fit your schedules. 10:00am and 7:00pm

The Monday 10:00am link is: <https://zoom.us/j/678230148>

The Monday 7:00pm link is: <https://zoom.us/j/598220646>

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING AT 9:00PM Dr. Lacher is leading a Prayer Meeting on Zoom. Everyone is invited to be a part of this worship in prayer.

The ZOOM meeting link is: <https://zoom.us/j/338982217>

If you already have the ZOOM app just select: Join a meeting and enter the numbers.

Greetings to the NM District.

I trust everyone had a blessed Christmas and I wish you a Happy New Year. In this month's Mission SDMI article I would like to draw your attention to two recent articles that I found meaningful. The first is the December issue of SDMI Connections sent out by the General Church. The 2nd is an article from Holiness Today Coffee Break.

The December issue of SDMI Connections has many valuable articles and links to many SDMI resources. Among many things included in this issue, is a letter from Dr. Scott Rainey, Global director of SDMI, about celebrating Christmas. This issue also has other great and relevant articles including:

- **Grace: A Word to Guide Us through 2021**
- **Parenting in the Pandemic: Spiritual Growth in Trying Times**
Helping to Change a Blue Christmas to a Bright Christmas

This SDMI Connections also highlights valuable SDMI resources including:

- Children's Bible Quizzing**
- Global Discipleship Resources Expanded with Basic Bible Studies**
- 2021 VBS – The Journey of Grace!**

If you have not seen the December issue of SDMI Connections, I encourage you to take a look at it. If you have not subscribed to the email distribution of SDMI Connections, you might consider subscribing to this valuable monthly publication.

The other article I wanted to draw your attention to is the December 28, 2020, issue of Holiness Today Coffee Break. In this issue Dr. Chambo tells the following story about the life changing power of Christ:

“I have fond memories of the church in Mozambique and the ways it shaped my life. The Church of the Nazarene in Mozambique invests a lot of time in teaching and preaching on holiness. A week or weeks of holiness revival were normal and intended to rekindle interest in, passion for, and practice of biblical holiness of both heart and life. Such revivals focused on three areas: prevent grace, saving grace, and sanctifying grace.

Over the years, I witnessed several of these revivals in Mozambique, but one gathering has stayed with me. In that gathering, I witnessed the transformation of a man whose family and community did not think there was hope for change in his life. This man's story included substance abuse, domestic violence, witchcraft and worship of idols (ancestral worship), and much more. His wife and children had started to come to church, and one of his children prayed earnestly for the salvation of his dad. One evening during the revival week, he walked into the church — not because he had planned to join us for worship but because he was upset with his family, and he was going to deal with and embarrass them right there. He was drunk and did not have the nicest things to say.

The preacher deviated from his script and calmly engaged in a conversation with him. It was entertaining to many of us; but at the end of their exchange, the man sat down. He suddenly became quiet and more attentive to the Word. As the message ended, he joined those who were at the altar. He cried out to the Lord for His salvation. Finally, he had a huge smile on his face and said, “It is over. Today I choose a new life. I will pursue this new life as long as I live.”

My dad, Rev. Manuel Chambo (Tshambe) was the preacher. As he was getting ready to close the service he said, “It is beautiful to witness the transformation in people's lives as they respond to God's grace to forgive their sins.” Then he added, “But there is more that God wants to do in our lives. The message for us and for our world is that God invites us into a holy relationship with Him. We are to be the holy people of God. This is made possible through the forgiveness of our sins and the work of God in our lives to give us victory over sin.”

Dr. Chambo goes on to say, “My dad understood a holy relationship with God as living in exclusive relationship with God—a relationship that does not open itself to association with things that are contrary to God's holy nature and character.”

This story by Dr. Chambo reminds me of a similar story told by Dr. Rainey about the transformation in his own father. Perhaps you too have witnessed a great transformation in someone's life. I have personally witnessed the transforming change in a person's life. This person was my own uncle, who became a Christian later in life after being far from the Lord since he was a teenager. I recall my father and our local church praying for my uncle through decades of time. To this day when my uncle is present at our home for special meals such as Christmas dinner, I often ask him to give thanks for the meal. I cherish hearing my uncle's humble prayer of thanks for the meal and for his own salvation. We cannot underestimate the transformation that can occur in a person if they turn their life over to Christ.

May the Lord greatly bless you for all you do for His Kingdom.

Mark Asplund
SDMI Chairman



Greetings NM NYI,

While January 1st never seems all too different from December 31st, a new year provides us with the opportunity to ponder what the next 365 days might bring. As believers, we have the hope that God is in control and He will meet us in our lowest lows, but also make the victories that much sweeter to celebrate! The truth is that we can't predict what 2021 has in store for us anymore than we could've realized what 2020 would bring. However, we serve a God who knows and who is preparing the way and preparing us!

Look for the blessings...they are abundant in Christ!

Jordin

*****W.I.M.*****

Women in Ministry Virtual Fellowship

*****Saturday January 23, 2021—1:00pm** We will enjoy a time together on Zoom.

NOTE TIME CHANGE

Meeting ID on zoom ; 831 5944 5875

Passcode: 806233

Invite link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83159445875?pwd=S1jCOXMya0JOUmFhYnlGMVKUT09>

This Fellowship is for all our Women in Ministry— Ordained, Licensed, Pastors, Pastor's wives including Staff. If you have not received an invite to this then I don't have your email address. PLEASE send it to me ASAP. lacherlisa@yahoo.com Looking forward to seeing you all in January!!

Lisa Lacher