



Dr. Lawrence Lacher



November 2023

EMPOWER

Recently, in reading Romans in The Passion Translation, I came across these words in Romans 15:2, “Our goal must be to empower others to do what is right and good for them, and to bring them into spiritual maturity.” This expansion of the NIV reading, ² “Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up” drew my attention to this verse in a new and more focused way. The Spirit made me pause at that phrase and consider how that is the essential work of Christian discipleship—empower others to do what is right and good for them and bring them into spiritual maturity.

I like the word *empower* because it suggests that we should get actively engaged in the lives of others. Of course, we wish everyone would specialize in doing what is right and good; but are there ways that we can contribute to the process? What could you do to enable another person to do the right thing?

Jesus gave us a good model to follow with his own disciples.

First, he modeled for them the things he wanted them to do. He lived the life before them that he wanted them to live. He loved, he healed, he preached, he taught, he gave of himself, he prayed, he sacrificed, he served, and they watched. The normal pattern of education in the centuries around the time in which Jesus was here was modeled on this sort of immersive experience. Students learned by being with their teachers with the goal of patterning their lives after their teachers.

Second, he watched. After Jesus taught, he watched. He gave his disciples assignments and he watched how they performed those tasks. “You feed them,” or “go and prepare the room” or, “cast the net on the other side of the boat” or, no doubt, dozens of other tasks that Jesus ask his disciples to perform. He watched them and discussed what they were doing so that they could be empowered toward doing what was right and good for them.

Third, he sent them out. Normally, he sent them out in pairs or small groups with specific commands to do the things that they had seen him doing—preach, heal, pray, serve, etc. Then they came back and reported all that God had done through them. In this way they were growing toward spiritual maturity. In the process, Jesus continued to coach and encourage them as they were refined and became more confident in their growth.

Finally, he went away and gave them the command to find others and begin the process with them: “Go and make disciples of all nations.” As Paul told the Romans, the process of replicating ourselves should never end. We must always be looking for opportunities to invest our lives in others with the “goal to be to empower others to do what is right and good for them, and to bring them into spiritual maturity.”

Perhaps, if we focused on this one goal better, we would make a better world for ourselves to live in. I think, maybe we could simplify all the laws, codes, rules, and commands, if we could get everyone focused on this one goal. Maybe I’m dreaming, but perhaps you would be willing to take up Paul’s goal and Jesus’ model and start investing your life in ways that will make a difference in the world that you will leave behind..... **Just a thought.**

Dr. Larry



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Welcoming our New Pastors onto the NM District!

Rev. Dr. Rusty Brian— Lead Pastor at Living Stones COTN—Clovis

Pastor Micheal Beall— Lead Pastor at Open Gate COTN-El Paso

Pastors Ben and Stephanie Yocum— Co-Pastors at Hobbs 1st COTN

Our Retiring Pastors on our NM District

Rev. Bill Belge— Open Gate COTN El Paso

Rev. Al Bunting —Deming COTN

Rev. Dale Wesley—Living Stones COTN Clovis

Rev. Rick Hutchison —Angus COTN (Bonita Park Campground)

May God continue to Bless you all as you begin this next chapter in God's journey for your lives

ANGUS



CRCC - FARMINGTON



LIVING STONES CC—CLOVIS



LOVINGTON



CARLSBAD



LOS LUNAS-CORNERSTONE



PORTALES



SANDIA-HARVEST FESTIVAL



RIO VISTA TACOS AND 16TH CRAFT FAIR



ALBUQUERQUE



AZTEC—

Gallup First Church of the Nazarene,

Thanks to "Women With A Purpose" High Desert UMC, in Rio Rancho for the 100 sack lunches for Gallup Street Ministry and lunches for seniors on the Reservation.

Thanks to Paradise Hills Church for inviting me to their breakfast as a guest speaker to talk about Gallup Ministry.

Special thanks to: Dave Durant, Val Forbes, Wanda Golsan.



Edge of Adventure, a new group formed to discover living committed to God!

T OR C



NOV 19 @ NOON



ROSWELL 1ST— COSTA RICO

TRIP FUNDRAISER



Passion is more than the name of a church planted in the Navua country side of Fiji; it is a driving force in all the church does to engage its youth in ministry and missions. The Passion Church of the Nazarene began just before the COVID-19 pandemic, and though the gathering of churches was restricted, Passion continued with Zoom worship services on Sundays and discipleship classes, as well as keeping people connected through online fellowship. Online theology classes also began during this time to encourage local pastors in their studies. In March 2022, two of the leaders received their local licenses; in 2023, these pastors received their district licenses. Passion supports the ongoing education of its youth, believing it is important to the holistic development of youth, equipping them, and mobilizing them with a heart for missions. Their slogan is “We do not have to be great to start, but we have to start to be great!”

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL



Up Coming Important Dates for the New Mexico District

November

Welcome to Ministry Retreat 10am to 5pm Nov 8

Board of Ministry Meeting 5pm to 9pm Nov 8

and 08:30am to 4pm Nov 9

Leadership Retreat (All pastors, staff and District Licensed ministers) Nov 9-11

December

Field Areas Leaders -Please make your plans for a Christmas gathering of all your pastors!!!!!!

BeONE, most recently known as COM2TEX/ COM2MEX Dec 27-



LEADERSHIP RETREAT NOV 9-11

Registration Nov 9 beginning at 3 pm. Retreat ends Sat. Nov 11 with lunch

Who: All ministers (lead pastors, staff, chaplains, etc.), district licensed, ministers in training, spouses, retired ministers, and select lay leaders.

Rev. Tim Kellerman will be our speaker.

Our theme this year is: Creating a Culture of Prayer in Your Church

Mark this a priority weekend for you and your spouse.

See you all Soon!

Cost: \$140 pp for the full retreat

\$70 pp if you attend Friday night and Saturday only

Retired ministers are discounted to \$90 and \$40 respectively

Children are welcome at the same rates. Children 5 and under are free.

Parents will need to share childcare responsibilities during services

Bonita Park Campgrounds

Housing is assigned on a first come basis.

Call 575-366-4404 to reserve housing



Tim and Jamie Kellerman have been married for almost 39 years. Prior to joining the ministry team of NEI, Tim and Jamie served five congregations in Indiana (19 yrs.) and one in Arkansas (18 yrs.).

On August 8, 2020, Tim and Jamie were elected District Superintendent of the Northeastern Indiana District Church of the Nazarene. Tim's formative years were in Taiwan where his parents served as missionaries for 17 years. Jamie is from Seymour Indiana.

Tim and Jamie are giving their lives to creating a culture of prayer wherever they go.

Their highest ministry aim is to lead the church to seek and experience the presence of God through intentional corporate and personal prayer which is the precursor to all that God can and will do.





2023-2024 El Paso Trip Details

[Be ONE - Nazarene Border Initiative](#) -link

Be One, most recently known as COM2TEX/ COM2MEX, is an annual end of the year, Work & Witness event, organized and hosted by Nazarene Border Initiative. We work together with Nazarene churches along the US/Mexico border and participants nationwide, as one family, to accomplish the mission God has given us. Begins Dec 27

Call 423-987-9595 or email rrodriguez@globalnaz.org

We hope you would prayerfully consider joining us!



Teen Quizzing – Oct. stat sheet

Team

- 1st place – Pan-ninjas (Clovis Central Baptist)
- 2nd place – Way Walkers 1 (Clovis 1st Presbyterian)
- 3rd place – Way Walkers 2 (Clovis 1st Presbyterian)

Individual

- Memory Master – Brennan Colville (Clovis 1st Presbyterian) – 36 verses
- Rookie Quizzer – Eden Blashke (Clovis 1st Presbyterian) – placed 6th overall

Teen Quizzing- Sept Stat sheet

Team

- 1st place – Topher Oaks (Clovis Central Baptist)
- 2nd place – Brennan Colville (Clovis 1st Presbyterian)
- 3rd place – Elias Montebancho (Portales)
- 4th place – Brayden Hughes (Carlsbad Church Street)
- 5th place – Nesira Blashke (Clovis 1st Presbyterian)

