



MAY 2020



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May 2020

Volume 83, Number 4

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While We are Waiting.

Never has there been a time where our future is so uncertain. While Texas seems to be relaxing its restrictions, New Mexico has announced that gathering restrictions will last at least until May 15. We are still unsure about whether we will be free to have District Conventions and Assembly and the campground summer season is going to be truncated at best. While there are hopeful signs and God seems to be hearing our prayers for relief, we know that when we are allowed to come together again it will not be “business as usual.” It is evident that this season of isolation will change the way that the church does business—hopefully for the better.

I have been encouraged in my devotional reading from Isaiah in these past days. During their time of siege and isolation, Isaiah saw that God would deliver Judah from her enemies and time of oppression. That is good news. We are certainly praying for and believing that God will deliver us and the world from this season of oppression soon. Yet, I am praying for more than deliverance.

Isaiah 40 promises many blessings that would come to God's people after their time of siege. Among those blessings are comfort and forgiveness. Certainly, we are in need of both those blessings. For those who have and will suffer loss due to the COVID infection, loss of life, loss of income, loss of opportunity to be with people they love, and so many other losses during these weeks, we certainly need God to comfort those who mourn. For those who need forgiveness, this season has been a time when the gospel has reached out to people in new ways. Every Sunday of this pandemic, I have heard the gift of forgiveness and restoration offered by those reaching out through social media. I pray that many are being swept into the Kingdom because we have been forced out of our comfort zone.

Yet, the real blessing promised in Isaiah 40 is that the glory of the Lord will return to His people. Isaiah tells the people to “prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness; make a straight highway for our God in the desert” (3). Valleys are to be lifted up and mountains are to be made low. God is coming in a hurry without impediment. “And the glory of the Lord will appear, and all humanity together will see it,” (5). The word for glory here is the word *kabod*. In one sense, it refers to weight. When it is applied to a person, it refers to splendor, abundance, and honor. Isaiah is looking forward to the time when God will return to His people in all His splendor, abundance, and power.

While we are waiting, let's pray in anticipation that God is going to astound us with the presence of His glory returning to His people. I believe we will gather again in joy, happy to be together again with the ones that we love. Yet, I am praying for so much more. I am praying that the One we love will return to His church in all His glory and that we will never be the same as a result.

Will you join me in this prayer?

MAY 2020



Local NMI Reports

Local church NMI Reports will be filled out online this year. Be on the look out for an email from Pastor Serina Nelson, our District NMI Secretary.

Prayer Mobilization Line

NMI has been asked to help mobilize the church in prayer for the COVID-19 pandemic. One way this is being accomplished is to have information from the Board of General Superintendents in the Prayer Mobilization Line calling the church to specific prayer. Access www.nazarene.org/nmi/prayer and scroll down to the bottom of the page to subscribe for English, Portuguese, and Spanish versions.

New Mission Books

Now is a great time to get in some extra reading. Check out the new mission books on the NMI website.

"Wherever He leads is good enough for me. I want to be a channel – a vessel He can move and use in any way He wishes.

" Read more in *Wanda*. [Click](#) for English, Spanish, and for the Audiobook in English.

NM NMI

If you are interested in receiving regular NMI Updates, please email Nicole Young at nmmipresident@gmail.com

I would also love to receive updates from you and your churches. Please share with me how you are reaching out to your communities and how I can be praying for you.



NEW MEXICO DISTRICT FAMILY CAMP

At Bonita Park Campground



Dr. Larry Lacher
District Superintendent



Rev. Susie Shallenbarger



Bob and Jennifer
Wilkerson



Rev. Tim Hancock



Dr. Kara Lyons-Pardue

Some of the events of the week:

Children's Activities throughout the week

School of Prophets - Tues morning through Saturday morning.-

Dr Kara Lyons-Pardue—Prof. of NT at Point Loma University

Evening services -Monday night through Saturday night

Morning service -Tuesday through Sunday

Saturday— NMI Celebration

Sunday— SS lead by Dr. Lacher

Family Activities

Teen Activities

Food, Food, Food!



Missionaries in Residence for Camp

Roberto and Rhesa Rodriguez

Special Assignment Missionaries

El Paso Border Initiative

PLEASE CALL BONITA PARK FOR YOUR LODGING RESERVATIONS: 575-336-4404

**July 27—
Aug 2**



Comings and Goings of our Pastors on the NM District



Pastor Tim Tharp has accepted the call to be the senior pastor at Heights First Church of the Nazarene. They will be arriving in mid June.

Tim, Tara and their children; Lukas 13, Emma 11, and Sadie 6 are currently pastoring in Georgia.

Please be in prayer for them as they pack and leave their families and friends. More information to come after they have arrived.

Getting to know our pastoral families on the New Mexico District



Alanna McDuff-Pastor at Cornerstone Church of the Nazarene in Los Lunas NM

The McDuff family was created on November 12, 2011, when Jonny and Alanna were married in their church, Faith Family Church of the Nazarene. We met through mutual friends who thought we would be a great couple together...they were right! We made a commitment at the beginning of our relationship to make our relationships with Christ the center and priority in our relationship! We have been so blessed by that decision.

Alanna has always had a passion for teaching the Word of God, and finds that she is refreshed by teaching others in depth through the Bible. She also has a passion for youth and youth ministry, with a longing to see them come to Christ and thrive in Him, and has been involved in youth ministry in some way since and even before responding to her call to pastor.

Jonny has a passion for caring for the elderly and those in hospice care. He has shown a tremendous amount of care, not only for the physical needs of those in hospice care, but also for their spiritual needs. He has had numerous occasions to share the good news of Christ with those who are close to the end of their lives and at a crucial moment to secure their eternity.

Together, they have a desire to see orphans cared for and loved in the name of Christ. As Jonny spent the first 10 years of his life in an orphanage in Romania, we have a deep concern for caring for orphans in the world who are the father-less. We have partnered with Children To Love International, the organization that was started by a few who were instrumental in getting Jonny and several other children out of the orphanage in Romania and into loving Christian homes, to provide for the needs of orphans in orphanages around the world. Alanna and Jonny are also currently planning a trip to Romania to the orphanage he grew up in.

We were blessed four-fold by the addition of our four children to our family. Jeremiah is now 7. He is very much a 7 year-old boy! He loves superheroes and joins Jonny in claiming Superman as their favorite superhero. Abigail is 5 and likes unicorns and sparkly things. Hannah and Chloe were our unexpected double blessing...twins! They will soon celebrate their third birthday. Their relationship toward one another has been a joy to see.


Jonny recently began to make homemade soap, using all natural ingredients. He's enjoyed experimenting with essential oils and other ingredients to help with skin issues through his soaps. Jonny is a Certified Nurse Assistant and works with the elderly and end-of-life persons in hospice care and has used his soaps to further bless and care for those who he cares for in his job.

Alanna, when she has spare time, enjoys reading fantasy and historical fiction. She also enjoys crafting items through crochet, knitting, and cross-stitching. At Cornerstone Church, she has been leading the congregation to press deeper into prayer, corporately and individually, and deepening the intentional discipleship of the church.

****I would like to create a biography on our pastors and their families to use each month. Their hearts, passions, hobbies, etc. along with a picture. We are a family spread out over many miles. As Larry and I are visiting your churches and getting to know your families, you all have great interests we need to know about. So please send your family biography to me at:**

lacherlisa@yahoo.com.


Thank you, Lisa Lacher



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.



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>



Please Mark your Calendar!

**JUNE 2020

25 District NMI Convention @ Roswell First

26 District SDMI Convention @ Roswell First

26-27 District Assembly @ Roswell First

**JULY 2020

~~6-10 Childrens camp~~—**CANCELLED!!!!**

13-17 Teen camp

FAMILY CAMP—July 27—Aug 2

SDMI

Greetings to the New Mexico District!

As I speak with people across the country, the conversations are all too familiar. One recurring observation is that “this is an unusual time,” and indeed it is. People across the country have common experiences like learning how to order their groceries online, picking them up in a parking space designated for online shoppers, and having a masked store employee put the groceries in the trunk. Church services are being held online and people miss the personal fellowship of other church members. People are feeling a bit of cabin fever from being quarantined. Yes, these are unusual times, but these are also special times to draw closer to loved ones and to take opportunity to deepen our relationship with Christ. Church and Sunday School members are making special efforts to overcome social distancing by reaching out to others via phone, email, texting and a host of other social networking methods.

I recently spoke with Dr. Scott R. Rainey, Global Director, Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International (SDMI). He sends his greetings and echoes what we are experiencing about the C-virus. Normally at this time, the Global SDMI office would be distributing hard copies of an annual resourcing brochure for distribution at District Assemblies / SDMI Conventions. Unfortunately, the impact of the COVID-19 virus has altered those plans. As many District Assemblies and Conventions are canceled this year, the information is being distributed electronically. By clicking on this link <

http://d31hzhk6di2h5.cloudfront.net/20200331/f9/6f/f9/d7/22af094178e02cf801cccb88/Total_Ministry_Booklet_2020_Electronic_v2.pdf>

you will be able to download a digital copy of the brochure for use and distribution. Please share this with your churches.

Statistics Gathering: Just a reminder that we are currently on hold regarding gathering monthly SDMI

Statistics. I will let you know when we have been directed to resume gathering statistics, which will be no sooner than June.

Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well (3 John 1:2).

Thank you for all you do,

Mark Asplund

NM District SDMI Chairman