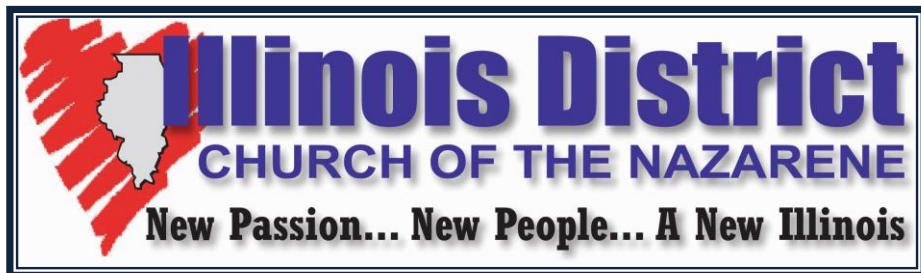


BOOKSTORE



James Spruce
District Superintendent

VOL 65 NUMBER 1

P.O. BOX 1054 - 2916 GILBERT LN., ALTON, IL 62002 Web Site: <http://ilnazarenedist.org>

SEPTEMBER 2011

LAY RETREAT WEEKEND

September 9th - 11th, 2011

"Are You For Real???"

Being held on the beautiful
Brush Creek Campground located in Zenith, Illinois

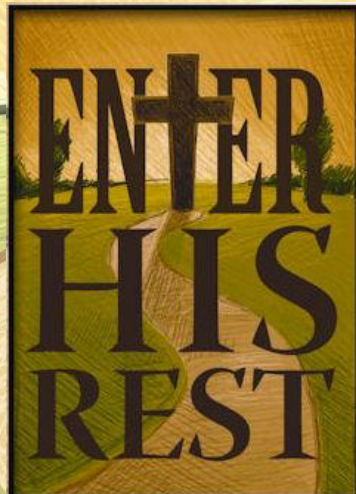
Website address: www.bcccampgrounds.org
618-835-2277

GPS Location: N 38.54870, W 88.61334

Balloons and signs will mark the way

Featuring: **"The Proctors"**

Announcing
Come to the Fire 2011



For All Women
Desiring a Holy Heart

Grove City Church of
the Nazarene
4770 Hoover Road
Grove City, Ohio 43123
Columbus, Ohio Area

September 29 to
October 1

Free Registration
Donation Supported

*Illinois District
Pastor & Spouse
Retreat
October 16-18, 2011*



Guests
Rev. Mark Murphy
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Spruce



Pere Marquette Lodge
& Conference Center
Grafton, IL



NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

Bill Brandon, District President
18 Sandstone Ct., Troy, IL. 62294
618-667-0828 E-mail csifsr30@sbcglobal.net
"That the world may know"



What is Alabaster



The Alabaster Offering provides funds for property and buildings around the world. It gives a sense of permanence, the attitude that the Church of the Nazarene intends to "put down roots." Eighty percent of the money is used in world mission areas, and twenty percent goes to multicultural congregations in the United States and Canada. Alabaster funds help provide land for most Work & Witness projects. The entire offering goes toward the construction of churches, schools, medical facilities, and homes for missionaries and national workers.

How Are Alabaster Offerings Received? The Alabaster Offering gets to the mission field via several avenues. The most widely used is the Alabaster Box. Individuals are challenged to regularly contribute the cost of items they desire but do not need. The boxes also serve as reminders to pray for those people who will benefit from Alabaster buildings.

In September and February, the money is collected. Sometimes a "march offering" is received with individuals carrying their boxes to the front of the church and pouring the money into a large offering container. The way an offering is received is as varied as the world areas in which the Church of the Nazarene has a presence; however, it is always accompanied with a spirit of rejoicing.

Many churches receive regular offerings throughout the year that are designated as Alabaster funds. This is often a part of the Faith Promise plan for missions giving. However, the semi-annual offerings should still be received, allowing opportunity for giving by those not participating in other ways.

FALL DEPUTATION ZONE RALLIES

Fall Deputation Zone Rallies are being scheduled between October 18th and November 4, 2011 with Steve Heap. Brenda has duties in Brazil and will not be with Steve on this tour. More information with scheduled dates will be forthcoming. Scheduling is being done by Deputation Coordinator Sandy Stickler (217-508-7265 e-mail: hummingbird661@gmail.com)

Steve and Brenda Heap are global missionaries with the Church of the Nazarene in Brazil.

Stephen Moffat was born in Skipton, England to missionary parents who served for 36 years as missionaries in Colombia, Peru, Guatemala and Panama. Steve grew up in Colombia and Peru and then attended college at Bethany Nazarene College in Oklahoma from where he received the B.A. and M.A. degrees in religion and missions (now Southern Nazarene University).



Brenda Lynne was born in Emporia, Kansas and grew up in Lawrence and Shawnee, KS. She studied at Bethany Nazarene College and graduated with a B.S. degree in Elementary Education from Oklahoma Central State University.

Steve and Brenda were married in 1968 and pastored two churches in Oklahoma before being assigned to Brazil in 1973. They have been privileged to have served in Brazil during a period when the evangelical church has grown rapidly. As an example taken from the Nazarene denomination when the Heaps arrived in 1974 there were 1,200 members. There are presently over 100,000.

During these 35 years the Heaps have served in several capacities: as seminary professors; pioneers of churches in Northeast Brazil; and for 23 years as field director. Recently they had the privilege of seeing three Brazilian Nazarenes take over the responsibilities of Strategy Coordinators for the regions of Brazil. Steve and Brenda's present roles involve coordinating Work and Witness Teams, teaching and clergy development.

A little about their family today: Stephen and Michelle and daughters Grace (7) and Mary (5) live in Pella, Iowa. Brian and Agatha and son Lucas (5) and daughter Victoria (3) live in Brazil. Tom and Jennifer live in San Diego, CA with daughter Chloe 8 months. Their family is proud to have been your representatives of God's grace in diverse cultures. To summarize their growing conviction in one sentence it would be, **"God's transforming grace knows no barriers!"**



NAZARENE YOUTH INTERNATIONAL

Jay Bush, District President
53 Partridge, Chatham, IL 62629
Phone: Church: 217-529-6771; Home: 217-483-2480
E-mail: jayrbush@aol.com



Congratulations NYI Council 2011-2012

District Superintendent: Dr. Spruce

President: Jay Bush

Vice President: Sean Asbeck

Treasurer: Chris Shotts

Secretary: Julie Bott

Registrar: Jamie Toolen

NYI Trainer: Todd Holman

DCL/RCL Director: Jay Bush

Mission Outreach Coordinator: Sean Asbeck

Spiritual Life Retreat Director: Matt Soulia

Camp Director: Tim Lourash

**Early Youth Representatives: Easton Bush
and DJ Redden**

**Senior High Representatives: Isaac Dillman
and Jennifer Smith**

**College Age Representatives: Bradley Deal
and Celina Yates**

Northeast Sectional Rep: Tim Lourash

Northwest Sectional Rep: Chris Bott

Southeast Sectional Rep: Tim Sorensen

Southwest Sectional Rep: Tim Sprinkle



Red Carpet Days

September 30-October 1, 2011

Olivet Nazarene University



RADIATE 2011

October 21-22

Check facebook and this link:

<http://www.wix.com/snarks04/radiatenyi#>



**DISTRICT SUNDAY SCHOOL &
DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL**

TIMOTHY CRUMP, District Chairman
315 Cale Ct., Forsyth, IL 62535
217-875-0616 E-mail: nazpaz1@yahoo.com



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Make the Connection

“Going the Distance”

Marriage Conference

Friday, October 21-Saturday October 22, 2011

Sponsored by the Illinois District SDMI
Decatur First Church Of the Nazarene

\$40 per couple or \$25 for single

Learn the Secrets to a Lasting Love

Conference check-in is Friday from 6:00-6:55 p.m.

Conference begins sharply at 7 p.m. on Friday,
with a Desert bar wrapping up the night

Saturday from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Lunch is served and is included in the conference cost.

Registration Forms Are Available on the District Website.

Children’s Camp Photos



Come To The Fire

September 29-October 1

Grove City Church Of the Nazarene

Grove City, Ohio

4770 Hoover Road

Grove City, Ohio 43123

Register today

<http://cometothefire.org/conference-registration/>



**2011 Children’s Camp
A Huge Success**

In light of the fact we did not have a Children’s Camp last year it was amazing to see that we had 118 children from across the district gather at Lake Williamson for Children’s Camp August 1-5. God certainly blessed this camp and we look forward to July 23-27, 2012 for our next Children’s Camp at Lake Williamson.

Pictures and videos are available at:

http://www.firstnazarene.org/ministries/children_s_ministries/childrens-camp-2011



**2011
Illinois District
SDMI Board**

Board

District Superintendent—Dr. James Spruce, 319 Breckenridge Rd., Chatham, IL 62629 (E-mail: jspruce@comcast.net;
fax: 217-483-1172; cell/office: 217-494-4808; home: 217-483-4147)

Chairman—Timothy Crump, 315 Cale Ct., Forsyth, IL 62535 (E-mail: nazpaz1@yahoo.com; cell: 217-413-1579;
church: 217-875-0616; home: 217-872-1627)

Secretary—Judi Roarick, 41 Covered Bridge Acres, Glenarm, IL 62536 (E-mail: jroarick@comcast.net; 217-483-4133)

Treasurer—William E. Shotts - Shotts, Merryman and Company, 315 N. Memorial, Pittsfield, IL 62363 (E-mail: weshotts@frontier.com;
fax: 217-285-6576; office: 217-285-2222)

Sunday School Min. Division

Statistical Secretary—Ronald Hebel, 300 Lime St., Dupu, IL 62239 (E-mail: comtime@htc.net; church: 618-286-4698;
home: 224-353-9302)

Continuing Lay Training—Penny Brown, 1209 Plum St., Marshall, IL 62441 (E-mail: brownpj1@mchsi.com; 217-826-8644)

Director of Adult Ministries—Jerome Williams, 504 Horseshoe Ln., Casey, IL 62420 (E-mail: jerome.williams@papproducts.com;
217-932-4959)

Lay Retreat Directors—Dave & Jody Askins, 116 N. Long, Shelbyville, IL 62565 (E-mail: jaskins76@yahoo.com; 217-774-2326)

Director of Women's Ministries—Phyllis German (2013), 4672 White Oak Ln., Decatur, IL 62521 (E-mail: jgerman48@yahoo.com;
217-422-1458)

Director of Prime Time Ministries—Doug Krassow, 239 S. Central Ave., Wood River, IL 62095
(E-mail: dougkrassow@peoplepc.com; church: 618-254-4026; home: 618-717-2855)

Director of Singles Ministries—Cheryl Olmstead, 528 Garfield, Springfield, IL 62702 (217-528-0671)

Director of Children's Ministries—Deborah Brewer, 8201 Old St. Louis Rd., Belleville, IL 62223 (E-mail: debbrew@charter.net;
cell: 618-604-5552; home: 618-538-5237)

Children's Camp Director—Timothy Crump, 315 Cale Ct., Forsyth, IL 62535 (E-mail: nazpaz1@yahoo.com; cell: 217-413-1579;
church: 217-875-0616; home: 217-872-1627)

Children's Quizzing Director—Vonda Hill, 501 W. Union, Jonesboro, IL 62952 (618-697-2386)

Members

William Brandon, NMI, 18 Sandstone Ct., Troy, IL 62294 (E-mail: csifsr30@sbcglobal.net; home: 618-667-0828)

Jay R. Bush, NYI, 53 Partridge, Chatham, IL 62629 (E-mail: jayrbush@aol.com; church: 217-529-6771; home: 217-483-2480)

Waldemar Perez-Lopez (2012), 217 N. Ridge St., Arcola, IL 91910 (E-mail: wperezlopez@mchsi.com; 217-268-4653)

Dave Skelton (2012), 2900 Nickelson Creek Rd., Iuka, IL 62849 (618-822-6015)

Edwin P. Sprinkle (2013), 102 S. 33rd St., Mount Vernon, IL 62864 E-mail: esprinkle102@charter.net; cell: 618-237-1421;
church: 618-242-5049; home: 618-244-5319)

Gary Townsend (2013), 809 N. Morgan, Shelbyville, IL 62565 (217-774-4901)

Jim German (2014), 4672 White Oak Ln., Decatur, IL 62521 (E-mail: jgerman48@yahoo.com; 217-422-1458)

William Brian Hay (2014), 321 S. 6th St., Auburn, IL, 62615 (E-mail: bhay@springnet1.com; cell: 217-622-5969; home: 217-438-3255)

BUDGET REPORT JULY 31, 2011

Church Name	District	NMI	SDMI	NYI	WEF	P & B
Anna First	\$1,648.35	\$146.84	\$74.50	\$95.92	\$1,415.00	\$1,100.60
Arcola First	\$744.17	\$66.29	\$33.63	\$43.30	\$836.88	\$315.97
Arcola Spanish	\$244.60	\$21.78	\$11.05	\$14.23	\$386.00	\$104.00
Auburn	\$335.44	\$29.88	\$15.16	\$19.52	\$650.00	\$250.00
Barry	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Beardstown	\$1,345.97	\$119.91	\$60.86	\$78.33	\$1,588.25	\$542.68
Beardstown Liberty Hispanic	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Belleville Emmanuel	\$343.92	\$30.64	\$15.55	\$20.02	\$407.94	\$154.58
Belleville First	\$2,402.70	\$214.02	\$108.58	\$139.81	\$1,000.00	\$1,027.96
Belleville Korean	\$1,136.30	\$101.23	\$51.36	\$66.11	\$200.00	\$150.00
Benton	\$580.56	\$51.71	\$26.24	\$33.78	\$898.92	\$249.72
Bethel	\$1,252.03	\$111.53	\$56.58	\$72.86	\$1,593.00	\$535.00
Bluff View Christian Center	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Carbondale New Beginnings	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$577.89	\$210.14
Carlinsville First	\$669.88	\$59.66	\$30.28	\$38.99	\$345.00	\$217.74
Carmi	\$84.70	\$7.54	\$3.83	\$4.93	\$1,805.00	\$380.00
Casey	\$3,069.13	\$273.39	\$138.70	\$178.80	\$7,168.00	\$1,546.60
Centralia	\$626.94	\$55.85	\$28.34	\$36.48	\$1,069.00	\$406.00
Champaign First	\$1,882.02	\$167.65	\$85.06	\$109.52	\$1,456.99	\$529.82
Champaign New Day	\$41.92	\$3.74	\$1.90	\$2.44	\$0.00	\$0.00
Chrisman	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Clinton First	\$2,264.22	\$201.69	\$102.33	\$131.76	\$2,770.00	\$980.00
Collinsville Good Samaritan	\$684.49	\$60.97	\$30.94	\$39.83	\$915.31	\$288.93
Decatur First	\$8,855.46	\$788.82	\$400.21	\$515.32	\$18,147.48	\$3,727.56
Decatur Oak Grove	\$550.26	\$49.02	\$24.87	\$32.03	\$762.00	\$280.00
Decatur Parkway	\$2,126.89	\$189.46	\$96.10	\$123.76	\$2,744.52	\$1,003.57
Decatur Trinity	\$614.85	\$54.77	\$27.79	\$35.78	\$1,224.64	\$445.33
Decatur West Side	\$804.02	\$71.63	\$36.34	\$46.80	\$2,172.34	\$800.92
Du Quoin	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
East St. Louis Rush Mem.	\$117.63	\$10.49	\$5.32	\$6.85	\$173.00	\$68.00
Edgemont Grace	\$730.30	\$65.06	\$33.00	\$42.50	\$129.73	\$49.77
Fairfield Fountain of Life	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$715.00	\$460.00
Fairview Heights Parkview	\$1,202.57	\$107.11	\$54.35	\$69.97	\$968.00	\$406.74
Flora	\$2,095.72	\$186.68	\$94.72	\$121.95	\$3,838.75	\$620.05
Georgetown	\$335.44	\$29.88	\$15.16	\$19.52	\$0.00	\$216.51
Glenview	\$1,667.55	\$148.54	\$75.36	\$97.03	\$1,424.00	\$449.96
Godfrey	\$757.90	\$67.52	\$34.26	\$44.10	\$307.37	\$323.76
Granite City CTM	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Griggsville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Harrisburg Oasis Community	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Highland	\$31.35	\$2.79	\$1.42	\$1.83	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jerseyville	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Laclede	\$282.01	\$25.12	\$12.75	\$16.41	\$311.87	\$115.48
Lincoln	\$909.40	\$81.00	\$41.10	\$52.92	\$1,055.00	\$405.00
Mahomet	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mansfield Community	\$1,335.89	\$119.00	\$60.37	\$77.74	\$1,515.00	\$562.00
Marion First	\$88.89	\$7.92	\$4.02	\$5.17	\$0.00	\$175.00
Marshall	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mattoon East Side	\$1,036.84	\$92.36	\$46.86	\$60.34	\$1,760.28	\$653.14
Mattoon Real Life Community	\$928.38	\$82.69	\$41.96	\$54.02	\$1,065.65	\$395.58
Monticello	\$548.74	\$48.88	\$24.80	\$31.94	\$579.00	\$200.00
Mount Carmel	\$296.70	\$26.43	\$13.41	\$17.26	\$254.32	\$201.24
Mount Erie	\$601.53	\$53.58	\$27.18	\$35.01	\$670.18	\$248.99
Mount Sterling	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mount Vernon	\$20.13	\$1.79	\$0.91	\$1.17	\$0.00	\$0.00
Murphysboro	\$1,351.30	\$120.38	\$61.09	\$78.64	\$0.00	\$641.18
Nebo	\$716.51	\$63.83	\$32.38	\$41.69	\$837.40	\$311.54
Oakwood	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ogden	\$976.42	\$86.97	\$44.12	\$56.82	\$1,780.32	\$660.23
Olivet	\$1,470.06	\$130.95	\$66.44	\$85.55	\$0.00	\$195.00
Olney	\$1,044.94	\$93.08	\$47.22	\$60.79	\$1,084.37	\$441.08
Pana First	\$1,179.80	\$105.09	\$53.32	\$68.65	\$1,386.69	\$504.26
Paris First	\$745.70	\$66.43	\$33.70	\$43.39	\$2,028.95	\$403.71
Pittsfield	\$681.51	\$60.71	\$30.80	\$39.66	\$5,838.23	\$2,124.23
Quincy Emmanuel	\$558.00	\$49.71	\$25.22	\$32.47	\$811.80	\$238.14
Rantoul	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$222.23
Roxana	\$4,075.59	\$363.05	\$184.20	\$237.17	\$6,035.18	\$2,209.45
Royalton First	\$798.35	\$71.11	\$36.08	\$46.46	\$0.00	\$0.00
Salem Grace	\$5,566.24	\$495.81	\$251.57	\$323.91	\$7,996.32	\$2,916.46
Shelbyville	\$1,269.96	\$113.12	\$57.40	\$73.90	\$3,390.10	\$877.60
Sherman	\$1,416.75	\$126.20	\$64.03	\$82.44	\$1,929.30	\$608.97
Sparta	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Springfield First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Springfield Trinity	\$996.41	\$88.76	\$45.03	\$57.98	\$2,307.00	\$975.27
Taylorville First	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Tuscola	\$768.43	\$68.45	\$34.73	\$44.72	\$1,200.00	\$0.00
Urbana Lighthouse	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$159.17	\$61.06
Vandalia	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Virden	\$350.26	\$31.20	\$15.83	\$20.38	\$372.75	\$44.43
West Union	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Totals	\$69,262.02	\$6,169.71	\$3,130.31	\$4,030.47	\$102,078.89	\$34,233.18

CHURCH NEWS

2011 ILLINOIS DISTRICT BOARDS AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Thank You

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers support and prayers.

-- The Family of Doris Lilly

Thank you so much for the cards, flowers, visits, and most importantly prayers for Larissa and our family. We serve a God who is all-knowing and faithful and He will take care of her in the days to come. We have been blessed and praise God for what He has done in her life already.

-- Darin & Lori workman

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers you sent in memory of Allen. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

-- The Allen Dace Family

Advisory Board

Dr. James R. Spruce, 319 Breckenridge Rd., Chatham, IL 62629-9642

(E-mail: jspruce@comcast.net; fax: 217-483-117
office/cell: 217-494-4808; home: 217-483-414

Ordained Ministers

Timothy Crump (2014), 315 Cale Ct., Forsyth, IL 62535 (E-mail: nazpaz1@yahoo.com; cell: 217-413-1579; church: 217-875-0616; home: 217-872-162

Kevin Donoho (2013), 1110 Hawthorn Rd., Salem, IL 62881

(E-mail: pastor@salemgrace.com; cell: 618-322-5848; home: 618-548-108

Jim Frye (2012), 32 Candy Lane, Murphysboro, IL 62966

(E-mail: jimfrye2@yahoo.com; cell: 618-559-1740; home: 618-687-104

Jay Shoff (2014), 229 Bourdelais Dr., Swansea, IL, 62226

(E-mail: jayshoff@aol.com; cell: 618-550-8571; home: 618-222-082

Laypersons

Phyllis German (2013), 4672 White Oak Ln., Decatur, IL 62521

(E-mail: jgerman48@yahoo.com; 217-422-145

Judi Roarick (2014), 41 Covered Bridge Acres, Glenarm, IL 62536

(E-mail: jroarick@comcast.net; 217-483-413

Galen Scammahorn (2013), 118 Springdale Place, Wood River, IL 62905

(E-mail: gadasca@man.com; cell: 618-792-1722; home: 618-254-255

Christopher Shotts (2012), 443 Susie Drive, Pittsfield, IL 62363

(E-mail: cjshotts@verizon.net; work: 217-285-2222; home: 217-242-305

SDMI Board

Timothy Crump, chairman; Jim German (2014), Brian Hay (2014), Waldemar Perez-Lopez (2012),
David Skelton (2012), Edwin Sprinkle (2013), Gary Townsend (2013)

Missional Strategy Team

Dr. James R. Spruce, chairman, ex officio; Mark Copley, District Missionary

(Terms expire 2013)

Philip Alvord, Kevin Donoho, Allen Ebbler, Les Wilhelm

(Terms expire 2012)

Rita Briggs, James Craig, Will Haworth, Timothy Mondy, Bob Turner

Church Properties Board

Dr. James R. Spruce, ex officio; Advisory Board

Court of Appeals

Dr. James R. Spruce, ex officio; James P. Blue (2013), Lawrence Lacher (2013)

William Brandon (2014), Herman J. Wallace (2014)

Ministerial Credentials

(Terms expire 2012)

Dr. James R. Spruce, chairman; Douglas E. Haynes, secretary; James Craig,
Michael E. Curtis, Lawrence Lacher, Bobby Parker, Phillip Alvord, David Sorensen

(Terms expire 2014)

K. Lyle Artman, Rita Briggs, J. Craig Dillman, Jonathan Garlock,
Waldemar Perez-Lopez, Walter Sheets, Ruth Yates

Ministerial Studies

(Terms expire 2012)

Dr. James R. Spruce, ex officio; Jay Shoff, chairman; Barbara Sheets, secretary;

Jim High, Richard E. Prince Jr., Gregory Wooten

(Terms expire 2014)

Lloyd Simpson, Stephen Shotts, Jeffrey L. Stark, David Young

Olivet Nazarene University Trustees

Ministers—Dr. James R. Spruce, ex officio; John Connnett (2012), Timothy Crump (2014)

Laypersons—Judi Roarick (2012), William E. Shotts (2013)

Editing and Publishing the Minutes

Dr. James R. Spruce, chairman; Douglas E. Haynes, secretary

Assembly Finance

Ex officio members—Dr. James R. Spruce; William E. Shotts, chairman; district treasurer, district NYI Pres., district NMI Pres., district SDMI
chairman, district secretary, Mission Strategy Team chairman; Ministerial—Dr. James R. Spruce, James P. Blue, Jay R. Bush, John Connnett, Mark
Copley, Timothy Crump, Kevin Donoho, Jon Garlock, Douglas E. Haynes, Lawrence Lacher, Carlos Lonberger, Jay Shoff, Stephen Shotts, Edwin
Sprinkle, Jeffrey Stark; laymen—William Brandon, Matt Collins, Jim German, Cindy Hansil, Scott Horne, Matt Kerr, Randy Miller, Frank
Muellersman, Dan Phipps, Ed Roarick, Ken Scott, Christopher Shotts, William E. Shotts, Herman Wallace, Jerome Williams



Missional Strategy
MARK COPLEY, District Missionary
P.O. Box 373, Casey, IL 62420
Office: 217-932-4522; Cell:
E-mail: pastor@kznaz.org



What Does It Mean To Be Missional?

Buzzwords come and go in the church. Remember when everyone wanted to be “seeker-sensitive,” or even “purpose-driven?” But every now and then, a word comes around and sticks. I hope “missional” is a word like that. A few years back, the Church of the Nazarene claimed the word – along with “Christian” and “Holiness” -- as one of our three Core Values. Certainly, the other two are here to stay, so why not this one?

But when the buzzwords start buzzing, and the bandwagons start rolling, the meaning of the word itself can get lost in the drone. So what does it mean for the Church of the Nazarene, the church you pastor, or the church to which you are called, to be “missional?”

- Being missional is based first upon the nature and character of God. As Abraham, Isaiah, Jonah, and all the apostles discovered, God is a “sending God.” He no sooner calls someone “in” to covenant with himself, than he sends them “out” on a mission. The Latin term for this is “missio Dei” – “the sending of God.” Get closer to Jesus—the only begotten, sent by God—and you will get sent on mission.
- Being missional sees this mission not as a program, or a means by which the church is grown. Instead the mission becomes the organizing principle of the church. While the call once sounded like “the church has a mission,” this missional view understands that “the mission has a church.” Becoming missional means that the church organizes (or reorganizes) herself with mission as her primary activity.
- Not to get too technical, but the struggle with many churches is getting and keeping our priorities – our “ologies” -- straight. Christology – our understanding of Christ, comes first, then Missiology – our calling to follow Christ on his mission, then Ecclesiology – the shaping and organizing of the church. This shaping and organizing is centered on Christ, and is formed to accommodate the mission. The New Testament (and especially the Book of Acts) is the story of Christ building his church while on mission. The Church was formed as it moved from Jerusalem, to Judea, to Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. When the church stops this process, it ceases to be a movement and becomes an institution.
- When this happens, Christians harbor very firm ideas about what the church is, how she is shaped, and how her functional structures operate. When attendance declines or revival awakens us, we try to add mission, or force mission, into those structures. The results are often tragic -- like new wine poured into old wineskins -- because we’re seeking to preserve the wrong thing. Wineskins, and church structures, are meant to be useful for a time and then exchanged. Being missional means to be willing to change structure for mission’s sake. This is a “whatever it takes” approach to mission.
- Being missional, in effect, turns the direction of the church inside out. For many years, churches in our culture have been able to operate on an “attractional” model of ministry: reaching out to the culture and drawing people “in” to the church. Statistics are showing us that these attempts today are less and less successful at reaching the unchurched. Those that are growing, if honest, admit that much of their growth is coming not from conversions, but from the transfer of Christians from other congregations. But, it’s not just because “it’s not working” that we need to reconsider our methods. It’s because Jesus never gave us per-mission to work this way. Our mission and message is not “come to church” but “go into all the world.” Not to gather a congregation, but to make disciples who will follow Christ on his mission. Such a reorientation would change our conversations from “seating capacity” to “sending audacity.”
- Missional churches will embrace this understanding and reorganize to send people into the world to make disciples in Jesus’ name. They will nurture relationships with “outsiders” who do not yet know Christ, and begin to lay down their lives for their friends, in order to make him known. They will extend every effort, not just to get people to church, but to get the church to where people already are. In homes, workplaces, coffee shops, restaurants, at ball fields, nursing homes, hospitals, and jails. There, they will feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, comfort the sick, befriend the stranger, and make disciples everywhere they go. And, like the sheep in Jesus’ parable, they will be amazed to find Jesus there already.

On mission,

Mark Copley
Mission Strategy Director