

Nazarene Missions International NMI 2019

Joanne Sturgeon, President



Our theme for this year is “Adventure Awaits”. Following God is a lifelong adventure. Sometimes that adventure is downright frightening. Other times it’s exhilarating. And many times it doesn’t feel at all like an adventure.

Some of you may be just beginning the adventure. Others may be getting closer to the end of your earthly adventure. Of course we know that is when the REAL adventure is just beginning! What a day that will be! Here are some things we can learn about adventures:

Sometimes they just happen. You can’t always plan them. Many times they don’t feel at all like an adventure when you’re in the middle of it. It’s not until afterwards that you realize it really was one.

When my granddaughter Spencer was just two years old, I took her down our sledding hill for the first time. It’s fairly steep, and we went fast, getting snow in our faces. As we stopped, she started to cry and said she was scared. I hugged her and said, “That was an adventure, Spencer!” She immediately started laughing and said, “We had an adventure!” She still talks about it several years later. Isn’t that sometimes the way it goes with adventures?

I remember when I was going through a terrible divorce, and then cancer, hanging on to the verse in Romans 8:28 that says “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose”.

When I heard about the Camp Fire in Paradise, I began to pray that verse for those people who lost everything. How in the world does God do that— bring good out of such tragedy? But here’s the thing. We don’t have to figure out how He does it. We just need to trust that He will, because that is His promise.

Our district churches have many stories of their adventures this past year. There was a huge response of help to victims of the fires. Our churches are so generous! There were many local needs, and also many worldwide needs, that we responded to. I could share several stories about you being faithful to God’s call. And those stories will continue as we continue to do what God has called us to. My story and my adventure will look different than yours. Aren’t you glad we’re not all the same? How boring would that be? I’m so thankful for each of you.

Recently I was holding my youngest grandson, Atlas, and thinking about the wonder of his life. God created each of us to be unique and special, even down to our individual fingerprints. What an amazing thing! What a majestic God we have the privilege of serving!

I love being part of the Sacramento District. I’m proud of all of you NMI presidents and pastors out there who are faithful in doing what God has called you to do.

So let’s talk about WEF for a minute. WEF is the World Evangelism Fund, and it is what allows missionaries to have the resources to do what they do. Our district’s WEF giving is up again this year—

congratulations to everyone who helped make that happen. The total given was \$782,991, up \$42,157 over last year. Our goal is 5.5%. This year we reached 4.7%—also up from last year. So thank you to everyone who gave. I applaud your generosity. But perhaps your church did not participate. Honestly, as part of the Nazarene Church worldwide, we are part of a global denomination and a global work. We all benefit from it. We should all be contributing to it.

We get quite a few missionaries who visit our district, and they often tell me how welcome they feel, how well they are treated, and how much they enjoy coming here.

Rev. Friday Ganda was recently here, and came to our church in Susanville on a Wednesday night earlier this month. He shared a story about a retired lady named Delores who heard about his desire to attend Bible college many years ago. She was on a limited income and did not have any extra resources, but as she prayed she felt God telling her to help him. So she told him to go register for college, and then she began to bake cookies and sell them at church. As Friday tells it, it was her cookies that made the difference, and he is living proof that everyone can do something. **EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING** for God's Kingdom. Would you join me in prayer that God would show each of us what we can do to help people come to know Jesus and become passionate followers of Him?

Remember — adventure awaits!

Submitted by Joanne Sturgeon, President

NMI Council Members: Nancy Newlin, Crystal Meneely, John Beaver, Bob Meneely, Jake Guild, Brad Reger, Dan Hopkins, Heather Peet, Jennifer Hastings, Pam Plaisted, Stacey Hanson & Vanessa Noblet