

Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI)



Rev. Darlene Franks, Chair

Another year has come and gone and the question I think the Lord is asking me as I write this report goes something like this..., “My beloved daughter Darlene, are you bearing much fruit for My Kingdom?” The follow up statement I believe He says to me is, “Remember, Dar, apart from Me you can do nothing. Stay in My love. Abide in Me. Help others do the same; then you will bear much lasting fruit for My Kingdom.” My response to Jesus is, “Lord, I am bearing some fruit but I want to bear more– fruit that will last.”

I can't bear lasting fruit without remaining in Christ's love but many times, in my own strength, I start producing instead of bearing fruit. Producing fruit has its focus on what I can do for Jesus. Bearing fruit has its focus on what **He** can do through me. I want to stay close to Him, listen to Him, bear lasting fruit for His Kingdom and help others do the same.

“If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.” John 15:7-8

I'm believing with all my heart that we will be a people who bear much lasting fruit proving to be Jesus' disciples – a people who confidently, passionately and intentionally make and multiply disciples of Jesus. I am asking Jesus that on the Sacramento District we will see *a culture of Biblical discipleship* cultivated in every relationship, in every family, in every church family and in every encounter we have with those who have yet to meet Jesus.

This past year, each of us on the Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) board prayed, listened and were led by His Spirit to serve in multiple ways as seen in the following examples. Please continue to pray for us that we would hear His voice in each step we take to make Christlike disciples in the nations - bearing much lasting fruit for His Kingdom.

Children's Ministry (Director, Cathy Scharf) – We hosted our second SPARK retreat at Mt. Hope this April. SPARK is a three day equipping retreat for children's leaders. It's a time of leadership development, teaching and learning, resourcing and equipping as well as an opportunity to connect with and learn from other children's leaders on our district. Those who attended the past two years have been empowered and encouraged in their call to serve children and families. Please spread the word about SPARK with your children's ministry team. We hope to see SPARK continue as one effective way to cultivate a culture of biblical discipleship year after year on our district. Details and registration information about SPARK retreat can be found on our NDI website - sacnazndi.org/children

Camps Ministry (Director, Ron Zimmer) – This past summer we saw God at work in every camp on our district. I personally witnessed children experiencing the Lord's presence in amazing and powerful ways. An example of that was when a young girl recognized God's voice calling her to pray and she boldly broke out into passionate, intercessory prayer for others on a prayer hike and at the altar during chapel. Her mother was there and said this had never happened before. We all rejoiced! A dedicated group of directors, program staff, and adult and youth counselors witnessed His Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven in the lives of kids, teens and adults. We can't wait to see what He will do this summer! For more Information about all summer camps, go to sacramentocamps.org.

Recovery Ministry (Director, Dale Marsh) – Lives are being transformed through weekend recovery retreats called *Came to Believe*. Dale’s hope is for pastors and church leaders in the Sacramento District to attend this weekend retreat to better understand how to reach people in the recovery community. *Came to Believe* retreats are also an opportunity for emerging recovery leaders to be better equipped to lead a recovery ministry in the local church. These retreats are happening twice a year in Nevada City. All are welcome and scholarships are available. Dale is always willing to meet with and guide church leaders who desire a healthy recovery ministry in their local church. For more information go to sacnazndi.org/recovery.

Women’s Ministry (Director, Doniese Roberts) – *Rise and Rejoice, The Power of a Healed Heart* was this year’s theme for our district women’s retreat. At retreat this year, women grew in their love for Jesus and one another as they learned from speaker/author, Heather Murdock, what it looks like to Rise and Rejoice in the midst of life’s most difficult circumstances. We witnessed God’s healing power as women took courageous steps with Jesus for healing of their deepest hurts. Women rose up for the first time to tell their stories and were set free. Rejoicing followed! Many have said it was one of the most powerful times they’ve experienced. All this took place in a safe, loving and intimate environment. We are believing for another fruitful time together this fall. For the latest details about our 2023 Women’s conference, please go to sacnazndi.org/women.

Multiplication of Disciples (Darlene Franks & Jeff Bassett) – Every Wednesday morning, Jeff Bassett and myself facilitate a *Discipled by Jesus* meeting using a method of making disciples and disciple-makers developed by Hal and Debbi Perkins. These are open meetings and are one hour a week. We practice the presence of Jesus using five questions Jesus asked His disciples and we are always willing to coach those who want to learn how to use this method. Those of us who participate are growing in our awareness of the Lord’s presence meeting by meeting which helps us in our awareness of His presence morning by morning which prepares us to be aware of His presence moment by moment through each day. On May 15-17, we will be having a *Discipled by Jesus Summit* for anyone serious about making and multiplying disciples of Jesus. We hope you can come! Details and registration information can be found at sacnazndi.org/discipledbyjesus.

In the Way, Podcast (Jeff Bassett) – Since August of 2019, Jeff has interviewed leaders, authors, pastors, missionaries and more. You will be blessed by his encouraging discussions around important topics of discipleship. You will also receive practical help and hear ways to receive personal coaching for being and making disciples. Some of the podcast topics include: Long Obedience with Kevin Portillo and Jessica Banes; The Christian Year with Brent Neely; Twelve-Step Discipleship with Sam Wood; Making Disciples with Hal Perkins, Dar Franks and Mickey Moody; Visitation with Ron Lundy; College Ministry with CRU and Chi Alpha leaders; International Leadership Institute with Kyle Phillips. To listen to these podcasts and more, go to sacnazndi.org/media. If you have a topic of discipleship that you would like to share on the *In the Way* podcast, please contact Jeff Bassett at cordovanazpastor@att.net.

I am honored and humbled to serve with incredibly gifted, genuinely loving and spiritually deep brothers and sisters on this NDI board. My sincere thanks to Cathy Scharf, Ron Zimmer, Jeff Bassett, Dale Marsh, Mirna Perez, Julie Porta, Doniese Roberts, Erika Murillo, Angela Henning, Marcia Garro, Rita Englund, Beler Watts, Austin Bender, Kaitlin Peoples, and Steve Scott. Each one takes seriously the Great Commission to make disciples and leads faithfully in our district as leaders for NDI. I believe I speak for them all when I say that we want more than anything to confidently answer Jesus with these words, “Yes, Lord, we are bearing much fruit for Your Kingdom – fruit that will last.” Lord, teach us to abide.

All for His glory, Darlene Franks

Sacramento District NDI President and the NDI Board