

places. It is true that by giving to send others a person can “go” as Christ commanded.

2. **By praying.** Prayer support is a key factor in the missionary enterprise. God’s power is released through the prayers of His people. Your prayers can make a difference in far away places.
3. **By personal involvement.** Here are some things you can do to get involved:
  - Inform yourself about the places where our missionaries are working.
  - Find the names of a few missionaries for whom you can pray.
  - Inquire about a successful method being used by missionaries.
  - Learn about the work of the Nazarene World Mission Society.
  - Could God be calling you to be a pastor or missionary? Pray about it.
  - Ask if there is any way you could help in an outreach ministry from your local church.
  - Find out how many Nazarene missionaries are currently serving and in how many countries.
  - Learn about missionaries who have been sent from your district or region.

### In Conclusion

If you have followed the suggestions in this lesson, it is almost certain that you have begun to capture a vision for the work of God. What a thrill it is to cooperate with God in His wonderful plan of salvation. How exciting it is to be part of a church that is reaching out to touch the world for Christ. May your vision continue to grow until it is as broad as the love of God and as big as God’s vision for His world.

## Lesson Ten Developing a Vision for God’s Work

### What Is Vision?

For the purpose of this lesson vision means:

- Understanding the potential of what could be done for God and getting excited about helping make it happen.
- Vision works like a telescope: It sees things at a distance as if they were close. It means seeing future dreams or goals as if they were a present reality.
- Vision works like a microscope: It sees small things and makes them look bigger. It is like looking at a small prayer cell and seeing it as a strong church.
- Vision is closely related to faith: Faith focuses on what God is able to do. Vision sees the possibility of doing it. It foresees it being done.

### The Dimensions of Vision

In the Church of the Nazarene, vision can take place on four levels: local (the local area), district (group of churches), regional (a large geographical area of several countries), and general (world-wide). Our structure gives everybody the opportunity to participate in God’s work on all four levels. The purpose of this lesson is to help you develop a multi-dimensional vision for the work of God. We will focus separately on each of the four levels mentioned above, and make some suggestions as to how you can develop your vision on each level. Our objective is not to win your loyalty to a human program, but rather to discover and become a part of God’s plan for the world.

### Vision for the Local Church

Talk with your pastor to get the following information and to discuss the future of your church with him.

1. How long has this church been organized?
2. How many members are presently on the membership roll?
3. What are the goals for this year?

4. Describe the church you would like to see here ten years from now.
5. What will have to take place to make the dream happen?
6. Name some places where your church could reach out to plant seeds (Bible studies, prayer cells, or preaching points) for potential new churches.

### **Vision for Your District**

Here are some things you can do that will help you catch a vision for your district:

1. Make plans to attend the next District Assembly.
2. Find the following information:
  - Who is your District Superintendent, and where does he live?
  - What are the boundaries of your district?
  - How many churches are on your district?
  - How many new churches were organized last year?
  - Make a list of the towns and cities in the district that do not have a Church of the Nazarene.
3. When you have the opportunity, ask your District Superintendent to share with you his vision for the future of the district.
4. Find out what needs to be accomplished in order to move ahead to the next stage of district development. There are four stages. Learn the differences between them:
  - A. Pioneer Area: Beginning with nothing, planting seeds in a new area.
  - B. Phase One: At least two organized churches.
  - C. Phase Two: At least 10 organized churches, 500 members, 5 ordained elders, and 50% support of district ministries.
  - D. Phase Three: At least 20 organized churches, 1000 members, 10 ordained elders, and 100% support of district administration.

### **Vision for Your Region**

Look for the following information to help you understand the challenge of your region.

1. What is the name of your region?
2. Who is your Regional Director? Where does he/she live?
3. What geographical areas and countries are included in the region?
4. How many districts and local churches are there on the region? How many total members?
5. What goals have been set for the next ten years on the region?
6. What doors are now open that need to be entered on the region?

### **Understanding God's Plan for the World**

The important thing here is to understand God's plan for the world as revealed in the Bible.

- God loves the whole world. (Jn. 3:16)
- God wants everybody to be saved. (2 Pet. 3:9)
- God has made sufficient provision for all to be saved. (Rev. 22:17)
- Christ gave His church the job of taking the Gospel to all nations. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matt 28:19-20). (These words are commonly referred to as the "Great Commission.") It is not optional. It is a direct command of Christ.

In the Church of the Nazarene we take the Great Commission seriously. We have set up a system that allows every local church and every individual to participate directly in the fulfillment of Christ's command. It is done in three ways:

1. **By giving offerings.** In our system, offerings for the World Evangelism Fund come from all over the world. They are then disbursed to support a gigantic program of sending missionaries and reaching people for Christ in many places. It is a thrilling thought to think that part of every offering given goes to so many