

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

23 October 2024

## Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Mesoamerica, South America, USA-Canada Regions



### Nazarene Missions Teams

Many who will read this will be familiar with Work & Witness. But, you may not be aware of its rich history or some of the ways in which it has changed to suit the age in which we live and try to do missions. In 1972, Dr. Paul Gamertsfelder was given the assignment by Nazarene World Missionary Society (NWMS) to find a way to get men involved in missions. He was a member of the Global NWMS (now NMI) council. So, in January 1974, the first official “Men in Missions” team was organized and sent to Panama. What began as “Men in Missions” renamed “Work and Witness” changed the way in which many participated in significant missions projects through the Church of the Nazarene globally. To mark the 50 years of this missions work, and better showcase the wider involvement of Nazarenes in projects around the world, the name was changed to Nazarene Missions Teams. This name captures all types of projects in which it is possible for teams to participate, such as Work & Witness, Emergency Response, Evangelism, Medical Missions, Sports, Education, Compassion, and Technology projects. Nazarene Missions Teams is a beautiful way to continue the legacy of the last 50 years and move into a space where more people are given opportunity to use their gifts and talents to serve people and places, joining the Lord and others in fulfilling His mission.

In the last 50 years, 18,524 teams have been sent out on Work & Witness projects. 229,185 individuals have served the church around the world through Work & Witness.

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## **PRAYER**



- Pray that God will continue to call his people to go and serve each other in real ways that allow for dignity to be realized, humility in service to be shown, and grace to be given.
  - Pray that as participants humble themselves, and love one another in places of need, Christ may be seen to be present in the projects undertaken.
  - Pray that those who go out, and those whom they go to work alongside, will offer themselves in true service to Christ, for the sake of others, without prejudice, but with unconditional love and fellowship in the work.
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## **PRAISE**



- Praise God that many are again seeking projects to join in this post-Covid world and are beginning to lay plans for new and exciting projects.
- Praise God that many of the teams that are traveling are not just US-based teams going to projects, but are from all around the world, participating in projects on other regions.



## Why did the name change, from Work & Witness, to Nazarene Missions Teams?

*“One of the reasons we changed our name from Work and Witness to Nazarene Missions Teams is that that name implied for many that the team that went were the ones doing the work and they were also the ones doing the witnessing. In reality, the teams going are joining the work that is currently being done; they are joining in the evangelistic efforts already being carried out locally.” – Stephen Sickel, coordinator for partnerships, teams, and projects for Nazarene Global Missions.*



From the beginning, it was generally true that the US would send teams to the other regions. However, in the last few years, many other countries have been sending more and more teams all around the world to join God in missions there. In the past year, churches have sent 23 teams from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Germany, South Korea, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Singapore and Thailand to serve with other congregations seeking to establish stronger work or meet local needs in distant places.



Sickel explains: “The name change also was needed due to stricter traveling restrictions. If you say that you are going to do work, that changes the type of visa that is required. If you say that you will be witnessing, in some countries that is not allowed.”

In addition to the new name, the Nazarene Missions Teams registration process has had significant upgrades. This new system will allow the team leader a state-of-the-art experience in collecting and accessing their team's information. In this digital age, it is important to provide quick and easy tools for team leaders to use in gathering the right information for their teams to participate in the Missions trip. Step by step training videos showing how to navigate all of the new features of the system are available in the Resources Sections on the Nazarene Missions Teams website.

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### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to participate, and support this kind of work? For more information, see the Nazarene Missions Teams website [here](#).

There you can find projects, resources for leading a team, trip insurance information, upcoming events, videos, and Nazarene Missions Teams (NMT) logos for your church to use to customize your Missions information.

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17001 Prairie Star Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

