



Alabaster Offering

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

I am writing this the final day of the Gathering, District Assembly 2017. It truly was an amazing and uplifting time, and this district event has become a revival event for me every year. The conventions and the assembly impacted me significantly.

I especially enjoyed the videos that celebrated the last 75 years of ministry, specifically the one that was shared by "Aunt V." She told about the district's strategy of taking a tent and holding services in different towns around South Carolina.

As she shared these memories, my own mind flashed back to my years in Swaziland, specifically from about 1980-1984. Dad was the Nazarene Bible College Principal in Siteki at what is now the SANU School of Theology. He was heavily involved in developing the South District, and one of the key methods they used to plant churches was a tent! It worked in Swaziland, too. They would find a place, pitch the tent, and hold services. Sometimes it would be on a soccer field, other times a pasture or a clearing in the bushveld. People would come, there was singing and preaching, and people would get saved. After a short time a church would emerge and the need would arise for a permanent structure (they had to use the tent for the next place). Prayers would go up, Nazarenes around the world would collect Alabaster offerings, and a church building would be erected. It was hard work but, even at a young age, exciting to witness.

It is still exciting today to think about, even though we do not always use tents, the various ways we see the church's programs fit and work together. Honestly it is awe inspiring. People are still planting churches, buildings are still being erected, and Alabaster is still the main way they are funded around the world.

In South Carolina the Nazarenes are generous. I want to thank you for that generosity and thank you for your faithfulness to Alabaster. I would like to challenge every Nazarene in every Nazarene church to participate in every Alabaster offering this upcoming year.

Let's set an Alabaster offering record. Let's collect those coins, bills and checks and go all out, so that many more churches and schools, clinics and Child Development Centers can be built for ministry and to the glory of God.

Rev. Brian Walker
Alabaster

Children's Mission Fair - October 14, 2017

To register contact:
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Please bring a Deputation Offering.

Freedom Sunday – September 24, 2017

The Church of the Nazarene is active in many countries where people are vulnerable to human trafficking. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) supports local churches in anti-trafficking efforts that range from prevention and education to protection and rehabilitation.

Freedom Sunday is a global day of worship, prayer, and action surrounding the problem of human trafficking. On September 24, 2017, churches around the world will join together to raise awareness about human trafficking and modern slavery and to show our compassion for men, women, and children who are exploited around the world. As the Body of Christ in our world, we unite to commit to a tangible response against the evil of human trafficking.

Through Freedom Sunday, churches will make commitments to take action to prevent human trafficking and exploitation in our local and global communities and to care for victims of this crime. Together, we can stop trafficking and bring God's good news of freedom for the oppressed. Their needs are urgent.



JESUS Film Has a Milestone Birthday

Here's a reason for everyone to celebrate—JESUS Film turns 20 this year! Just four years after JESUS Film Harvest Partners' (JFHP) beginning, Dr. John C. Maxwell declared that "This film has been one of the most effective tools in the history of Christendom." His words ring even more true today as JFHP celebrates 20 years and over 15 million decisions for Christ.

The past 20 years are a result of the miracle of God's work. JFHP recognizes that the glory is indeed God's: "We have been surrounded by His faithfulness, faithful Harvest Partners, and faithful teams." In fact, the film could not have reached so many around the world if not for those who are willing to go to share the film and those at home who financially and prayerfully support those efforts. In 2016 alone, 2,617 team members worked in five regions around the world.

As of July 2017, JFHP reports 77,630,777 evangelistic contacts, 15,081,735 decisions for Christ, 6,921,721 initial discipleship follow-ups, and 69,262 preaching points. Indeed, we can agree with Dr. Maxwell's statement as the JESUS Film is making a difference in lives. Through this ministry, God is saving, discipling, and sanctifying people across the globe.

Won't you and your church consider hosting a Harvest Celebration Sunday to commemorate the progress made with this tool of the kingdom? Resources are available at jfhp.org. Also, consider taking a special offering for the JESUS Film and asking for donations in increments of \$20 as a memorial to the 20 years of miracles that have already been made possible through the use of the JESUS Film.

Rev. Libby Newman
JESUS Film Ambassador