

A field marshal looked over his field of battle near the walls of a kingdom and as he saw the enemy rise up out of the mists of early dawn to advance, he cried out to the king, "Shall we fire?" The king replied, "No, wait."

Then as the enemy was beginning to overrun them the king cried out to the field marshal, "Fire!!" But the field marshal called back to the king saying, "It's too late now, sir. It's too late!!"

General Superintendent Dr. Daniels, District Superintendent, Dr. Wilson, Guest Speaker John, Retired and Active Missionaries, Pastors, Missionary Presidents, Members, and friends of the Southern Florida District, I am truly honored to present 8th report as Southern Florida District's NMI President. There was no report during Covid in 2020

A year ago, when I stood in front of you, Russia had just invaded Ukraine, and the world seemed to be in Chaos. Today, just turn on your television, or scroll through the newsfeed on your phone, and you will see that our world seems even more chaotic now than then. Wars, poverty, hunger, and injustice dot the landscape of our globe.

In addition, Technology is advancing at lightning speed, reshaping our world in ways we could scarcely have imagined just a few decades ago.

In fact, look at the program cover for tonight's convention. That hourglass picture cannot be found on the web- it is unique because it was AI generated- and so were some of the videos used in tonight's service.

You see, we are standing on the precipice of history, at a moment where the call to action resonates louder than ever before because the time is now!

In 2 Corinthians 6:2, reads,

"At a favorable time, I listened to you,
And on a day of salvation I helped you."

Behold, now is "a favorable time," behold, now is "a day of salvation"

Today, I stand before you with a message of urgency, a call that resonates through the very core of our beliefs and convictions. As Christians, we are called to be on mission for Jesus Christ, not tomorrow, not next week, but now – in this very moment.

Here are some churches who have embraced this call to missions, and have passionately supported missions by giving, praying, sending and much more. We are grateful for you and your people. Our district, and the general church are blessed because of you.

These Churches have done the following: [MISSION PRIORITY ONE CHURCHES- ON SLIDE]

Prayed for missions and missionaries, Taught missions, Gave towards towards Missions, engaged children and youth Taught youth, paid at least 5.5% to the World Evangelism Fund (WEF), Gave to ALABASTER and supported missionaries through Care and Connection.

World Evangelism Churches. These churches gave at least 5.5 percent of income to the World Evangelism Fund

[WORLD EVANGELISM CHURCHES- ON SLIDE]

These churches gave at least 5.7 percent of income to the World Evangelism Fund– or an additional \$1,500 beyond 5.5% (whichever is less)

[WORLD EVANGELISM CHURCHES OF EXCELLENCE- ON SLIDE]

Kindly pick up your awards at the NMI Display booth in the Fellowship Hall.

Throughout the year, you gave to missions through Alabaster, World Mission Radio, Missionary Care, and many special mission projects. In fact, according to our Global Mission Center (Per April 1, 2024, report) you gave:

Mission Projects: \$379,968.18

Alabaster: \$32,235.42

World Mission Broadcast: \$3,293

Deputation: \$27,219

WEF: 449,656.60

You showed up at Family Mission Day held at Lion Country Safari, to learn what God is doing in and through our young missionaries. You also showed up to pray for our broken world at our Prayer Summit in November. When is the right time to invest in missions? Indeed, the time is now!

Your amazing Missions Council has worked hard to embrace and engage our district in missions. To each of them:

Van Garner

Yoni Moorgan

Joe Roberts

Becky Roberts

Ardee Coolidge

Ernso Dorsainvil

Roy Shuck

I am very grateful. Please join me on stage to be recognized for your hard work.

We are not individual instruments. We are an orchestra; each member plays a vital role in the work of Missions. Thank you so much for serving. You may be seated.

My ability to serve is magnified by the love and support of you here tonight, this council, my amazing husband, my incredible church family, and this wonderful family we call the Southern Florida District.

Your years of engagement in missions add up to decades of experience, which is being passed on to the generations. The older teaching the younger, but also the older engaging in missions in new and exciting ways! No one is exempt! Now is the time for EVERYONE to participate in missions!

Pastors and Missionary Presidents, if you are mentoring someone who is interested in going to the mission field; if you are blessing your community; and if you are intentionally engaging ALL generations, you understand the urgency of leading the lost to Christ by any means possible. I have read your reports, and I see how you have blessed your community with food drives, helping with pregnancy centers, schools, and serving in mission projects near and far. Thank you for enlarging your territory.

The urgency of our mission cannot be overstated. Every passing moment brings with it the potential for someone to encounter the transforming power of God's love. Yet, every passing moment also carries the weight of eternity for those who have yet to hear the Good News.

As followers of Christ, we are entrusted with the greatest commission of all – to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is not merely a suggestion or a recommendation; it is a command, a mandate from our Lord and Savior Himself.

Thank you! Thank You! Thank you! To all the churches who gave so that we can make that happen here, on the Southern Florida District, and in the Global Church of the Nazarene. Because you gave, the Church of the Nazarene has entered its 165th Country! The Country of Belgium. Let me encourage you today, if you have not participated in giving to the World Evangelism Fund, or Mission Specials, please make it your goal to start giving TODAY! If you

have not given 100% or more of your goal, can I challenge you to do so next year? Will you challenge your congregation to make it happen?

Let me implore to you continue to mentor ALL generations, continue to bless your communities, continue to care for our missionaries serving across the world, continue to pray and continue to give!

The world is in desperate need of the transformative power of the Gospel – a power that can heal the brokenhearted, set the captives free, and bring light to the darkest corners of society. It is a power that is waiting to be unleashed through acts of love, compassion, and proclamation.

In January, we will go the bustling city of Manila, Philippines, to share the timeless message of hope, love, salvation and to do some physical hard work (as well).

Manila, with its vibrant streets, diverse culture, and teeming population, presents us with a unique opportunity—a divine opportunity—to shine the light of Christ in the midst of darkness, to bring healing to the brokenhearted, and to offer redemption to the lost.

The fields are ripe for harvest, but the laborers are few. The urgency of our mission compels us to action – to step out in faith, to proclaim the Gospel boldly, and to live lives that bear witness to the transformative power of God's love.

May I remind you? When we give sacrificially to missions, we are investing in eternity. We are sowing seeds that will yield an eternal harvest—a harvest of souls won for Christ, lives transformed by His love, and communities changed by His grace. What greater investment could there be than that?

So let us not be complacent- Now is the time! Let us rise to the challenge with courage and conviction- now is the time, knowing that we do not labor alone, but with the very presence and power of the Holy Spirit within us. Let us be bold in our witness- Now is the time. Compassionate in our outreach- now is the time! Steadfast in our commitment to fulfilling the Great Commission- Now is the time!

Pastors, Missionary Presidents, members and friends, be reminded, that our Heavenly Father was conscious of timing. The scripture says, “in the fullness of time God sent his Son”. Do not wait- NOW IS THE TIME. The harvest is plentiful, the laborers are few. So let us heed the call to action. Let us embrace the urgency of missions with all the fervor and determination that it deserves.

Humbly Submitted,

Diana Rambarran

NMI President