

## CANADA

NAZARENE NEWS | April 2020



Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord:

We are journeying through Holy Week and as I write this, it is Maundy Thursday (when we commemorate the Last Supper that Jesus had with His disciples). Tomorrow is Good Friday, leading us to the remembrance of the experience of the Passion of our Lord. Then we move into a curious day that can only be described as “Silent Saturday”. We wait for and we long for the Resurrection of Jesus... “He who was dead is now alive”. I pray that you will experience all of the emotions that each of these events provide. As contemporary Christians, we know the end of the story pertaining to the death and resurrection of Jesus, and in knowing that, we actually could miss out on the process through which our faith is made stronger, our resolve to follow Him is increased, and our purpose to declare His message is fulfilled. So, enter in friends!

I want to share with you a poem written by Annie Johnson Flint. She was born on Christmas Eve, 1866 in Vineland, New Jersey. As a young lady, she attended a Methodist Revival Meeting and surrendered her life to the Lord. As she grew, she suffered greatly from severe arthritis and mobility became almost impossible. She wrote many poems and printed much prose and even though holding a pen in those gnarled fingers and swollen joints was a major challenge, this became her means of ministry to so many. Perhaps to you this day. She wrote the following...

### THE WAY OF THE CROSS

**“Some of us stay at the Cross, Some of us wait at the Tomb,  
Quickened and raised with Christ, Yet lingering still in the gloom.**

**Some of us bide at the Passover Feast, with Pentecost all unknown,  
The triumphs of grace in the heavenly place, That our Lord has made our own.**

**If Christ who had died had stopped at the Cross,  
His work would have been incomplete,  
If Christ who was buried had stayed in the Tomb, he had only known defeat.**

**But, the way of the Cross never stops at the Cross, and the way of the Tomb leads on,  
To victorious Grace in the heavenly place, where the Risen Lord Jesus has gone.”**

**So, “In the Name of our Risen Lord” and until the next time...Have A Blessed Easter.**

Blessings  
Ian Fitzpatrick

## NAZARENE COMPASSIONATE MINISTRIES CANADA (N.C.M.C.)

### COVID -19 UPDATE: NAZARENES RESPOND IN LOVE

As the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic continues, together are responding with compassion in the name of Jesus. NCM is already responding globally in the Philippines, Albania, Paraguay, Rwanda, the Dominican Republic, the US and more.

- Food and hygiene distributions for those who are high-risk, isolated or low-income
- Mental health and social care
- Spiritual support
- Extra financial support for low-income individuals and families
- Prevention awareness programs to mitigate the spread of the virus
- Support for children who normally attend Child Development Centre's

### How Can You Help?

- **Live compassion as a lifestyle.** We urge Nazarenes to consider safe, creative, and imaginative ways to respond to the needs of family, church family, and neighbours around us - to be the hands and feet of Jesus where we are.
- **Practice physical distancing but maintain social connectedness.**
- **Pray.** Many of us are confined to our homes with extra time on our hands. Let us pray. Pray for front-line workers, for the sick, for those who have lost loved ones, for protection of the vulnerable, for our government and all those making decisions, for those who have lost jobs and income, for students missing school and who will not have summer job.
- **Give.** Send donations to the National Office at 3657 Ponytrail Drive, Mississauga Ontario, L4X 1W5 or visit our website [www.ncmcanada.ca](http://www.ncmcanada.ca) under Disaster Response (global) or Donate. Be sure to designate your gift "**COVID - 19 Response**".

If your church is responding to needs in your community, attached are **Guidelines for Safe Distribution of Food / Non-food Items** (See attachment). If you need the guidelines in French, Spanish, or Portuguese, please see <https://www.ncm.org/covid19#covidstatement> under Resources for Churches.

### NCM Response in Canada

If your church is responding to needs in your community and decides to request additional resources from NCM, the following are the ***NCM guidelines for accessing NCM funding***.

#### ***NCM response must be to the most vulnerable***

- The elderly (over 60) and /or those with prior serious health conditions and especially those having little or no access to health care
- Those who are marginalized and are among the poorest of the poor (or have lost income/livelihood and have no income/assets to sustain themselves) who are deprived of food/necessities during lockdown / isolation / quarantine conditions.

***NCM response must be Church-led*** which means that NCM support is designed to supplement what local church / churches are already doing.

*NCM response must be Community-based* means that we serve the most needy in the community regardless of religion or creed. (The most needy can of course include needy Nazarenes who are part of the community but is not limited only to Nazarenes)

There is funding available across the regions providing the above criteria are met. In Canada/USA region, funding may be available for those who fall through the cracks of government assistance and meet the above criteria. See <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

### NCM Delivery Mechanism

As for any NCM response, the local pastor (of the church/churches involved in responding) and the D.S. must approve any proposed initiative prior to the request being directed to NCM. If a distribution of food/goods is planned, then complete a request form (available from your District Superintendent and also on the NCM Canada website [www.ncmcanada.ca](http://www.ncmcanada.ca). If the request is for anything beyond a simple distribution of food/non-food items, then the templates for NCM proposal and budget (Emergency response templates) must be completed. These are available on the NCM Canada website, [www.ncmcanada.ca](http://www.ncmcanada.ca) under Disaster Response (global).

### Information For Child Sponsors

To date, NCM has not heard of any sponsored children testing positive for the virus. Child Development Centre's and schools are closing to slow the spread of the virus. Many CDC's are continuing to provide much needed food and resources for the children and their families during the pandemic. **Therefore your child sponsorship funds are still very much needed.** It is expected that the need for food and other necessities will increase as the virus spreads. Also, your monthly sponsorship will help provide support as children and their families recover from the economic strain of isolation/quarantine. Your relationship with the child you sponsor will provide the knowledge that they are loved and cherished, no matter what.

Your correspondence with your sponsored child will be delayed. Since NCM/NCMC staff are also working from home, gathering and sending hard copies of letters won't be possible. We do not however, anticipate significant delays in updating your monthly giving statements.

You can access information regarding your sponsorship only anytime by signing into your sponsorship account through the Child Sponsorship Portal or by contacting Yara Cristales at [ycristales@nazarene.ca](mailto:ycristales@nazarene.ca).

Thank you for your generous support of these needy children. Pray for them and for their families in this time of crisis.

As the situation unfolds we will issue updates.



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