



MARCH 3, 2017

2017 EASTER OFFERING FOR THE WORLD EVANGELISM FUND

We trust you are looking forward to the Easter Offering for the World Evangelism Fund on 16 April 2017 (or the alternate date specified by your region, field or district). On Easter, thousands of Nazarenes will offer up their praise to God as one global body. They will give of their time, talent and money *to make Christlike disciples in the nations*.

I encourage you to talk to your congregation or churches about participating in this offering. Ask individuals about their stories of salvation and encourage them to share the good news of Christ worldwide through their gifts.

We can't keep the gospel to ourselves, waiting for others to spread the hope we enjoy. When we join our gifts and prayers together, God uses our humble offerings, and new voices call on the **Lord of All**.

As always, to make it easier for you to spread the word about this offering, please take advantage of the resources available at www.nazarene.org/generosity. We are excited to see what God will do in the days leading up to and following this offering.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Lail".

Mark E. Lail
Director, Stewardship Ministries

NOTE FROM NCM CANADA

Within the past two weeks, there have been Facebook pages circulating with links to damaging news articles about Bangladesh Nazarene Mission. This has prompted NCM Canada to release to you this update on the status of the investigation in Bangladesh.

If you should receive questions which cannot be answered by the attached statement, please direct them to me, copied to Dr. Clair MacMillan.

Dr. Clair MacMillan has received and approved this statement, and is sharing this information with Canadian District Superintendents (Church of the Nazarene Canada).

We urge you not to forward, share, retweet, or pass on in any way, any gossip concerning Bangladesh and/or Bangladesh leaders that is appearing in social media and elsewhere. We ask that if you learn of others posting, sharing, or re-tweeting such articles, that you urge them to refrain from doing so.

With thanks and much prayer,

Rev. Elaine Bumstead
Executive Director, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada

NTS PRE-GENERAL ASSEMBLY PRAYER RETREAT

Would you like to join with others for a 24-hour period of prayer and reflection just prior to the General Conventions & Assembly events in Indianapolis? Good news! Such an opportunity will be provided:

- **When:** Monday afternoon, June 19 – Tuesday afternoon, June 20, 2017
- **Where:** Benedict Inn Retreat & Conference Center, Indianapolis (just a 15 minute drive from the Convention Center) <http://www.benedictinn.org>
- **What:** An overnight retreat with shared meals, Scripture presentations based on Ephesians 4:1–16, community & private prayer, and rest
- **Who:** Developed and led by Deidre Brower-Latz (Nazarene Theological College–Manchester), Rhonda Carrim (Northwest Nazarene University), Terry Fach (Ambrose University), Doug Hardy (Nazarene Theological Seminary), Rebecca Laird (Point Loma Nazarene University), and Doug VanNest (Mount Vernon Nazarene University)

- **Why:** In response to Jesus' invitation to us as his disciples to "Come away ... and rest a while" (Mark 6:31)

Attending General Assembly has always been a high point for me. In 2009 I became aware of a pre-assembly retreat and my wife and I decided to attend. What I experienced was an intentional quieting time to prepare my heart for the inspiration and the work that was ahead. I also found great delight in the setting, the interaction with people from across the country and engaging in a time of guided prayer and heart formation. I'm pleased that another such event is being planned for 2017.

– Randall Craker, Spokane, WA (2009 Participant)

This retreat offers an opportunity to slow down and focus on intentionally listening for and to the voice of the Holy Spirit. From times of table fellowship to silence to directed sessions to conversations with brothers and sisters on the journey, we are invited to draw deeply from the wells of grace offered through Scripture, prayer, story and fellowship.

– Rhonda Carrim, Nampa, ID (Facilitator/Participant)

I am grateful for the heart of Nazarenes who have set aside time for prayer and reflection prior to the 2017 General Assembly. The opportunity of this prayer retreat to enrich the fellowship and business of this global gathering holds great promise. Our greatest need and desire is to experience the manifest presence of God.

– David Busic, General Superintendent

Prayer is the central practice of the Christian faith and something we are called to engage in with intention and together as God's people. I look forward to the 2017 Pre-General Assembly Prayer Retreat as an opportunity to join with fellow Nazarenes in placing ourselves before God in prayer – listening and petitioning – so that our hearts may be tuned to the Holy Spirit for the Conventions & Assembly to follow.

– Doug Hardy, Kansas City, MO (Facilitator/Participant)

IMPORTANT

The cost for this event ranges from \$99.00 to \$149.00 depending on room choice and if a reservation is made by March 31st. These prices cover food and lodging during the Retreat. Each participant is responsible for their own transportation to and from Indianapolis. Rates increase slightly after March 31st.

[Click here to register.](#)

DONATION

Would you like to make a contribution to a scholarship fund to help retreatants from outside the U.S. compensate for currency exchange loss?

[Click here to make a contribution.](#)

You may make a contribution even if you are unable to attend the retreat. We appreciate your gift. To request assistance from the scholarship fund, email Doug Hardy (dshardy@nts.edu) with information about how much you can pay and in what currency. Assistance may not be available for all requests, but we will do our best to help.

REPORT ON WILL AND ESTATE PLANNING SEMINAR

I just wanted to express my appreciation to the National Office for sponsoring the Will & Estate Planning Seminar. We had Dr. Coulter with us recently and it was tremendously well-received. Not only was I surprised with the turnout (24 adults on a Saturday afternoon), the content was helpful, with many people asking questions during and after the seminar. As well, the message Dr. Coulter gave on Sunday morning was right on – spoke on the theme of generosity. Again, extremely well-received, particularly since it can be a delicate subject.

Here is a text message I received Saturday after the seminar:

What a gift Dr. Coulter and the seminar was to us all. Thank you for encouraging us all to come. An incredible God given blessing to us. Dan wanted any handouts. There were hardly enough so I did not grab a set for him. Might it be possible for another clean set to be made for him? Mine has writing all over. Will share some with my oldest bro Ron. So gracious how Dr. Coulter pursued those hard talks.

Truly a blessing from our National Office. Thank you so much.

Pastor Norayr Hajian
Whitehorse Church of the Nazarene

CANADA 150 PRAYER PROJECT

In 2017 Canada, our country, will be 150 years old. To commemorate this birthday many Canadians will do 'special' things, visit other parts of the country or create something special.

Recently the thought came to me to pray for 150 Canadian cities, towns, places or people groupings in our land, one for each year of confederation. So I'm planning to do that. (I hope I can do it). Then I thought it would be good if more Canadians would pray for various places or peoples in our country. Perhaps you would also like to take this on as a prayer project?

God has given us such a beautiful, rich and varied land with a people that by and large are hard-working, polite, and basically honest in their dealings with other people. We are all blessed. To be able to finish praying for all 150 items one would need to pray for about 12-15 in one month. Praying for more in a month would reduce the length of time needed.

I'm adding a 'prayer guide' with the specific 'items' for prayer on it in the blog. It will be updated monthly giving prayer items for the next month (or months). It may also contain some impressions or thoughts that people had, etc. You can also forward any comments or thoughts you may have. Feel free to pass this idea on to others, use in your church or group, or make copies of the prayer list, etc.

Our God is God. He hears prayer and has made clear in His word the Bible that the "...prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:16 NIV) If you're a follower of Jesus Christ this would be you. Our country needs God, His grace, His forgiveness, His ways. Our people need His salvation found only through His Son Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins and was raised again the third day, according to the scriptures and who is coming again. So if this is a Canada Birthday project you'd like to do, great, join in. Either way may God bless you in 2017.

Alfred and Karin Zielke

En l'an 2017, notre pays, le Canada aura 150 ans. Pour commémorer cet anniversaire, beaucoup de Canadiens feront quelque chose hors de l'habituel tel que visiter un coin inconnu du pays ou faire une création toute particulière.

Dernièrement, l'idée m'est venue de prier pour 150 places canadiennes correspondant à chaque année de notre confédération. Donc villes, villages ou régions quelconques représentant un segment de notre société feraient partie de ce projet que je planifie et espère mener à bien. J'ai pensé également que ce serait bien si d'autres Canadiens s'impliquaient dans ce projet de prière. Peut-être aimeriez-vous aussi vous joindre à ce projet?

Dieu nous a donné un pays tellement beau, une terre riche et variée et un peuple dont la majorité travaille assidûment, honnêtement et respectueusement avec les autres. Dieu nous a béni. Afin de réussir à prier pour les 150 places, il faudrait prier au moins pour 12 à 15 places chaque mois. On pourrait ainsi accomplir le tout en moins de temps.

Dans la section 'blogue' je mets un guide de prière soulignant les points importants à poursuivre en prière. Mensuellement, je mettrai à jour le guide de prière. Il pourra aussi contenir vos impressions et les miennes. Faites-moi parvenir vos impressions, commentaires et pensées. Vous pouvez aussi partager cette initiative avec votre église ou groupe de prière et imprimer le guide de prière.

Le Seigneur est Dieu tout puissant. Il est à l'écoute et selon les saintes écritures de la bible "la supplication fervente du juste a beaucoup de puissance" (Épître de Saint-Jacques 5:16). Si vous êtes un disciple du Seigneur Jésus Christ, alors c'est de vous que ce passage parle. Notre pays a besoin de Dieu, de sa miséricorde, de son pardon et de suivre son enseignement. Notre peuple a besoin du salut que le Christ nous a apporté en mourant sur la croix pour nos péchés. Il est ressuscité le troisième jour et les saintes écritures nous rappellent qu'un jour Il sera de retour. Alors, si ce projet d'anniversaire pour le Canada vous intéresse, joignez-vous à nous. Quoi qu'il en soit, que Dieu vous bénisse en 2017.

Alfred and Karin Zielke

To visit the blog, please visit: <https://canada150prayerproject.wordpress.com/>.

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR CANADA'S 150TH BIRTHDAY

Believers all across Canada are celebrating Canada's Birthday with prayer over a period of 150 days. God has encouraged us to call upon Him and promised to pour out His blessings upon us, as a consequence. Attached is a copy of our prayer calendar. Please distribute this calendar to individuals and churches who are interested in joining this initiative.

In Christ's Service,
Esther Bissoon

**Send your news items of national interest to Diane at national@nazarene.ca
and see your information appear in the next edition of**

Nazarene News