



FORGOTTEN PEOPLE

Living Mission Planner and Lessons

VOL. 1

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL



FORGOTTEN PEOPLE PLANNER Your Step-by-Step Guide to Mission Education

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Welcome to the new face of Nazarene mission education! We hope the thought-provoking materials provided in *Living Mission* will inspire you to present missions in a new way to your congregation, small group, Sunday School class, or other group setting.

In order to do that well, however, you must have a plan.

That's why we've included this step-by-step guide for you. It is our desire to help you coordinate and organize these materials to maximize the time you spend on both preparation and on presentation. You have a tremendous story to tell, and we want to help you do it effectively. So let's get started!

The theme for this kit is *Forgotten People*.

STEP ONE—PREPARE YOUR AUDIENCE

Make use of the promotional materials included in this kit to prepare your audience for the exciting stories of Nazarene missions. These include videos, audio recordings, PowerPoint presentations, and more.

STEP TWO—PRESENT THE LESSON

In this planner you will find three lessons on *Forgotten People*:

"Priceless People" (topic: *human trafficking*)

"Lighting the Way" (topic: *education of children*)

"In God's Image" (topic: *Poqomchi' people of Guatemala*)

For each lesson, you will need a DVD player and TV, as well as a means to play the audio recordings on the CD. To access many of the additional resources, you will also need to use a computer.

Lesson 1: *Priceless People* (topic: human trafficking)

If you have **30 minutes** to present this lesson, you will have time to:

1. Watch the video and discuss as a group
2. Present the information on the definition of human trafficking as well as a few facts on this tragedy
3. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to the crisis of human trafficking
4. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
5. Spend some time in prayer
6. Distribute the take-away sheet

If you have **20 minutes** to present this lesson, you will have time to:

1. Listen to one audio recording and discuss as a group
2. Present the information on the definition of human trafficking as well as a few facts on this tragedy
3. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to the crisis of human trafficking
4. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
5. End with a short prayer
6. Distribute the take-away sheet

If you only have **10 minutes** to present this lesson, you will have time to:

1. Present the information on the definition of human trafficking as well as a few facts on this tragedy
2. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to the crisis of human trafficking
3. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
4. Provide prayer points for your congregation to take home with them
5. Distribute the take-away sheet

Summaries of the audio recordings are included in some lessons, should you want to read them aloud.

Lesson 2: *Lighting the Way* (topic: education of children)

If you have **30 minutes** to present this lesson, you will have time to:

1. Watch the video and discuss as a group
2. Present the information on the importance of educating children
3. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to needy children worldwide
4. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
5. Spend some time in prayer
6. Distribute the take-away sheet

If you have **20 minutes** to present this lesson, you will have time to:

1. Listen to the audio recording and discuss as a group
2. Present the information on the importance of educating children
3. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to needy children worldwide
4. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
5. End with a short prayer
6. Distribute the take-away sheet

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1. Present the information on the importance of educating children
2. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to needy children worldwide
3. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
4. Provide prayer points for your congregation to take home with them
5. Distribute the take-away sheet

Lesson 3: *In God's Image* (topic: Poqomchi' people of Guatemala)

If you have **30 minutes** to present this lesson, you will have time to:

1. Watch the video and discuss as a group
2. Present the information on the Poqomchi' people
3. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to the forgotten Poqomchi' people
4. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
5. Spend some time in prayer
6. Distribute the take-away sheet

If you have **20 minutes** to present this lesson, you will have time to:

1. Listen to the audio recording and discuss as a group
2. Present the information on the Poqomchi' people
3. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to the forgotten Poqomchi' people
4. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
5. End with a short prayer
6. Distribute the take-away sheet

If you only have **10 minutes** to present this lesson, you will have time to:

1. Present the information on the Poqomchi' people
2. Emphasize how the Church of the Nazarene has responded to the forgotten Poqomchi' people
3. Promote a few ideas on how you as a church can respond
4. Provide prayer points for your congregation to take home with them
5. Distribute the take-away sheet

STEP THREE—UTILIZE THE CAUSES

Something exciting happens when a group of people gather around a common cause to make an impact on the kingdom of God. The two CAUSE campaigns included in this kit are an opportunity for your group to do just that! Your congregation wants to make a difference! The CAUSE campaigns will help you get Nazarene missions in front of your audience in a powerful way and give them an opportunity to participate meaningfully in the work of God's kingdom.

We have provided both a Resource CD and a Resource DVD to enhance the educational experience for you and your participants. We encourage you to make use of the video, PowerPoint presentation, posters, brochures, and other materials included on these. Build anticipation beforehand. And make sure you have all the necessary equipment in place (TV, DVD player, remote, etc.) before you begin! Here are a few additional thoughts and suggestions . . .

LEAP CAUSE: Leadership Education and Advancement Program

To bring in audience participation, print the education statistics on separate sheets and have various people read them aloud. Or you could create fill-in-the-blank statements for the audience to complete.

There are two versions of a LEAP brochure on the Resource CD—one formatted for 8½" x11" to be folded in half; the other designed for printing as a tri-fold with a final size of 16½" x 8½". You may determine which of the designs best fits your congregation's needs.

Here are some helpful Web sites as you prepare your presentation:

- <http://www.ncm.org/toolbox/promotion/>
 - * Child Sponsorship brochure
 - * Child Sponsorship Q&A booklet
 - * NCM Giving Calendar
- <http://www.ncm.org/magazine/>
 - * NCM magazine available for download
- <http://www.ncm.org/leap>

Poqomchi' CAUSE:

To encourage participants to give toward the needs of the Poqomchi', include the list of specific needs (available in the CAUSE materials and also at www.livingmission.com). Send this home with everyone to pray over and give toward.

There are two versions of a Poqomchi' brochure on the Resource CD—one formatted for 8½" x11" to be folded in half; the other designed for printing as a tri-fold with a final size of 16½" x 8½". You may determine which of the designs best fits your congregation's needs.





PRICELESS PEOPLE

The Reality of Human Trafficking

Lesson Objectives:

To understand . . .

1. *What* human trafficking is
2. *Where* it is happening, both locally and globally
3. *Why* it is happening
4. *How* to do something about it

Lesson Preparation:

Before the lesson presentation, display several copies of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' (NCM) human trafficking articles in the lobby for people to peruse as they enter. (These articles and other online resources are found in the clickable links document on the Resource CD.) These are titled "Sexual Exploitation: Preying on the Innocent" by Stephen Gualberto and "The Reality of Child Trafficking" by Heidi Hermann. Another option is to have selected individuals read certain portions of the articles out loud to the group.

Another option is to show a clip from the movie *Amazing Grace* (available at your local video store) as a prelude to the lesson presentation.

Lesson Presentation:

Video

On the DVD, watch the video titled *Price Tags* (12 min).

Discussion of *Price Tags*:

From the video: ***“It’s as if Jesus is trying to say, ‘We don’t value people the same way, you and I. You see price tags and social status. I see stories, relationships, priceless jewels in every single child of God.’”***

- Do you think our society values people differently than the way Jesus valued people? If so, how?
- What do you think needs to happen for that gap to begin to close?

From the video: ***“And all He wanted us to understand is that we were bought with a price—a very extreme one. One so extreme, in fact, that it cancelled out all other figures . . . ripped off the price tags for good, making us of equal and enormous worth.”***

- Do you ever feel “worth less” than someone else? If so, would you be willing to share that with the group?
- What does it mean that Christ bought you and now you are priceless?
- How can you demonstrate this liberating truth to others?

From the video: ***“Your living mission is to sift out the attitudes of your heart that cause you to put price tags on things that were never meant to have price tags, and to evaluate your own way of measuring worth.”***

- What are ways modern society puts price tags on that which was never meant to have them?
- What are ways you can show others their true, God-given worth?

Audio Recordings

Following are summaries of the audio recordings if you prefer to read either story aloud.

1. On the CD, listen to the audio recording *Indian Restaurant* (5 min). A summary of the recording is below if you would prefer to read it aloud.

David Batstone, who is a prominent author on human trafficking, enjoyed eating at an Indian restaurant in San Francisco. In fact, he and his wife had eaten there regularly for several years. What he didn't realize was that every employee in the restaurant was a slave from India. The owner of that particular restaurant owned several businesses, and he also owned various apartment complexes. This owner

would travel to India, and he would traffic people from India back to America to work in his restaurants. Male and female, all ages—he brought them back, forcing them to work in his restaurant and to live in his apartments.

To appear legal in America, he paid them a wage. Everything looked normal on the surface. However, the employees were forced to pay back in rent everything they earned at the restaurant. There were even guards posted at the door of the apartments.

The plot was uncovered when two of the girls in the apartments were overcome by carbon monoxide. One of the roommates called the landlord, who was, of course, the owner. He showed up with some men. Together they rolled the girls up in a carpet, still alive, and took them out to a waiting van. A pedestrian saw the men putting the girls into the van and also struggling to force another roommate into the van. He asked another passerby to call the police. Law enforcement was able to get there and arrest the men, but not in time for one of the girls, who later died at the hospital.

The arrest uncovered the reality of the human trafficking ring that they were running. The restaurant and several other businesses and apartment complexes were literally filled with these slaves from India. That's the reality. David Batstone and his wife had enjoyed eating at that restaurant for years and had no idea that all the employees were slaves. They were not free to leave.

Discussion of Indian Restaurant:

Question 1: What is your first response to this reality?

Question 2: Does hearing this make you think about any places you might have been (restaurants, etc.) where activity like this might also be occurring?

Question 3: How do we, as Christians, even begin to tackle this enormous problem?

“These are somebody’s kids.” Why would someone would give up their child?

- Oftentimes someone the family knows offers to educate and employ their child so that he or she can be successful and send money back home to the family. The child gives up his or her passport, and parents sign away the child's rights.
- In return, the “trafficker” controls the child's paperwork, language (or the lack of), job, body, and fear. He abuses, scares, and controls the child's life, literally breaking the will of the child and sometimes even threatening to kill the child's relatives.
- Sometimes families give over their child when a personal or family emergency requires immediate funds. Individuals or families are forced

to work for very little or no pay in exchange for a small loan. The debt increases faster than what they are paid. A slave is then trapped without hope of ever paying off the debt.

(Source: Nazarene Compassionate Ministries)

What is Human Trafficking?

- The United Nations defines it as, *“The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”*
- It is one of the greatest threats to human dignity.
- It treats human beings like commodities.
- It describes all forms of modern-day slavery.
- It is no longer a term from the past; it's a horrific reality in our present day and future.
- It traps victims in commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution), labor sweatshops, domestic servitude, construction and agriculture, and more.

Facts about Human Trafficking:

- An estimated 12 to 27 million people are caught in one form or another of slavery.
- Between 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked internationally, with as many as 17,500 people trafficked into the United States.
- Nearly three out of every four victims are women.
- Half of modern-day slaves are children.

(Source: <http://www.freedomcenter.org/slavery-today/>)

2. On the CD, listen to the audio recording *Theresa's Story* (5 min) or read aloud the summary below.

Theresa was a sex trafficking victim in America, in high school. It all started when another young high school student “befriended” her, offering her a ride home one day. He suggested they swing by his uncle's place because the student needed to pick something up on the way home. When he invited her in, Theresa had red flags about the matter but didn't think much of it. Once inside, a group of men drugged her, gang-raped her, and got it all on video. When the men threatened to tell others, she was terrified. Theresa was a good Catholic girl, so

she had all this fear of exposure. There she was actually a slave in her own home. She went home to her own bed every night for three years. One of the men would call her about midnight on a phone in her room. They would tell her to sneak out, and then pick her up to take her to the "john" [man paying for sex]. She would service johns and be back in her own bed by morning. This went on for three years. Theresa's grades began to drop, her behavior changed, and nobody really noticed. Theresa finally had had enough and through some circumstances was able to escape. Now she travels and tells her story. This happened in America approximately 30 years ago. We may think human trafficking is a new problem. It's not, but our society is becoming more aware of the frightening reality.

Discussion of Theresa's Story:

Question 1: Did you ever imagine something like this happening in our own country?

Question 2: What bothers you most about this story?

Question 3: How do you think the gang's tactics were so effective?

Facts about Sex Trafficking:

- An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 women and children are trafficked into the United States each year. (Source: US Department of State)
- Globally, one million children enter the sex trade every year. (UNICEF)
- The amount of money generated by the world sex trade every year is estimated at \$7 billion to \$19 billion. (INTERPOL)

Why is there sexual slavery?

- Supply and demand: 80 percent of all trafficking is sex trafficking. (The United Nations)
- It is a highly lucrative business, with low risk of prosecution.
- Many nations allow prostitution within their borders as de facto legal industries.

ASK:

Have you ever known or met someone who

- had little to no possessions?
- had no control of their money?
- always had someone speaking on their behalf?
- was malnourished?

What might be other signs of human trafficking around us?

How has the Church of the Nazarene responded?

One of the most important ways to prevent child trafficking is to invest in children. The church is specifically responding to the protection of children from child trafficking in two main ways:

1. Education and awareness in local congregations of the value of children and injustices that affect the lives of children.

- **Lay-level Education:** This education involves lay-level church awareness and preparedness, including education and training for laity in child trafficking issues, particularly for individuals working specifically with children.

- **Higher Education:** The Holistic Child Development Graduate Certificate program master's, and doctoral degrees have begun at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary (APNTS) in Manila, Philippines, and are being developed at the seminary level throughout Latin America. Such programs are designed to equip leaders, teachers, child advocates, practitioners, and pastors who have the gifts, skills, and capacity to care holistically for children inside and outside the church.

2. Prevention- and recovery-focused child development programs

working specifically with local churches in areas where children are at a high risk of being trafficked. These offer protection for children, as well as a safe and nurturing place for recovery when children have experienced such exploitation. At this time, such programs are concentrated within the Asia-Pacific Region.

- **Step-UP program:** APNTS has also begun a unique program entitled *Stop Trafficking and Exploitation of People through Unlimited Potential*, which is referred to by its acronym *Step-UP*. This program provides in-depth training for mentors of potentially trafficked youth in their own church or community centers. Additionally, this program works with out-of-school youth who may be at risk of being trafficked, providing them with computer skills, daily life skills, and spiritual values. For more information, e-mail stepup@apnts.org.

- **Heavenly Grace Home:** Heavenly Grace Home (HG Home) was started by a medical doctor and his wife in Myanmar to serve as a safe place for children who are abandoned and rescued from slavery, trafficking (at the border of Myanmar and Thailand), and prostitution. This home was exclusively for girls during its early years and was called HG Girls Home. But because of the lack of facilities and programs for boys who are also affected by such issues, HG Girls Home was transitioned to a co-ed program in 2005 and changed its name to HG Home. The home provides safe living quarters, counseling, mentoring, life-skills training, educational assistance and tutorials, daily meals, spiritual formation, and health services to children.

The Church of the Nazarene acknowledges that children are important to God and a priority in His kingdom. We believe God directed us to attend to all children—to love, nurture, protect, uphold, guide, and advocate for them. It is God's plan that we introduce children to a life of salvation and growth in grace.

Do something that matters. (*Get Involved!*):

- Consider these passages for reflection: James 1:27; Matthew 18:1-6, 10-14; Mark 10:13-15; and Luke 10:25-37.
- Suggestions from Darrell MacLearn, a Nazarene pastor and project manager on human trafficking for the State of Texas Concerned Women for America (who provided the audio recordings):
 1. Step outside your box and get into the lives of people around you. Care about people.
 2. Look around you and recognize the signs of modern-day slavery.
 3. Assist with prevention of human trafficking. Many things we purchase are made by slaves.
 4. Spread the word about the reality of human exploitation.
 5. Start a safe home through your church where rescued people can live.
 6. Volunteer in a ministry that rescues people from the slave trade.
 7. Support ministries that help individuals break sexual addictions.
- While we can't do everything for everyone, we can do something for someone.

Conclusion

There are an estimated 27 million trafficking victims in the world today, and the deplorable trade in human beings is growing! Trafficking is the dark underbelly of globalization in which the strong exploit and abuse the vulnerable for their personal pleasure and gain. The size and pervasiveness of the crime presents a formidable problem.

As Christians, we must learn about human trafficking so we can stand with our brothers and sisters who are experiencing this form of oppression. The bonds of slavery are broken when we begin to get involved in the lives of people in our neighborhoods and around the world.

Prayer Points

- Pray for children and adults who are victims of human trafficking. Pray for their deliverance and their protection. Pray for their care and comfort.

- Pray that God raises up more people to fight against human trafficking. Pray for more workers to help in programs that address human trafficking.
- Pray God blesses your congregation with a compassionate heart toward persons who are trafficked both at home and around the world.

Choose a particular area of the world and pray for children in that area:

- In Sri Lanka, children often become the prey of sexual exploiters through friends and relatives. The prevalence of boys in prostitution here is strongly related to foreign tourism.
- An estimated 12,000 Nepalese children, mainly girls, are trafficked for sexual commercial exploitation each year within Nepal or to brothels in India and other countries.
- Some 84 percent of girls in prostitution who were interviewed in Tanzania reported having been battered, raped, or tortured by police officers and *sungu sungu* (local community guards). At least 60 percent had no permanent place to live. Some of these girls started out as child domestic workers.
- In El Salvador, one-third of the sexually exploited children between 14 and 17 years of age are boys.
- In Vietnam, family poverty, low family education, and family dysfunction were found to be primary causes for child sexual exploitation. Sixteen percent of the children interviewed were illiterate, 38 percent had only primary-level schooling. Sixty-six percent said that tuition and school fees were beyond the means of their families.
- There are about 60,000 child prostitutes in the Philippines.
- Mexico's social service agency reports that there are more than 16,000 children engaged in prostitution, with tourist destinations being among those areas with the highest number.
- In Lithuania, 20 to 50 percent of prostitutes are believed to be minors. Residents from children's homes, some 10 to 12 years old, have been used to make pornographic movies.

Information gathered from Women Trafficking and Child Labor Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) in "Facts on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children" (PDF), International Labor Organization (ILO) 2004. This information can be found at www.wotclef.org.





LIGHTING THE WAY

The Importance of Educating Children

Lesson Objectives:

To understand . . .

1. *Why* the lack of education is a problem for many children around the globe
2. *What* can be changed through improved education for boys and girls
3. *How* to get involved in improving education for children

Lesson preparation:

Distribute a Bible verse in a language other than English. Choose a language most people in your congregation will not know (e.g. Korean, Chinese, Dutch, etc. You can find various translation sites on the Web.)

Include with the verse several questions for the group to answer. This could include questions like, "Where in the Bible is this verse?" or "What is the topic of this verse?"

Remind the participants that children who lack a good education often find themselves in similar situations when they are unable to read or write. This lesson will address the topic of the importance of providing education to needy children around the world and how the Church of the Nazarene is doing just that.

Related Scripture:

Matthew 5:14-16; Deuteronomy 6:4-7, 11:19; Proverbs 31:8; Luke 18:16

Lesson Presentation:

Video

On the DVD, watch the video titled *Lamp* (12 min)

Discussion of *Lamp*:

From the video: ***“One very important and essential goal of God that stretches back to the very dawn of creation is sharing light, bringing light to dark places. . . . We are all light-bearers. And our job is to imitate the very first action of God in bringing light to the darkness, the confusion, the formlessness.”***

- What kinds of “light” do we bear that can be shared?
- Who are the people who most need this light?

From the video: ***“Being a light-bearer doesn’t mean staying in the lit-up places. Being a light-bearer means that you seek out those who are living in darkness, you move into the confusion.”***

- As the Body of Christ, is it possible we never leave the “lit-up places”? If yes, how so?
- What would be an example of seeking out “those who are living in darkness and confusion”?

From the video: ***“When you decide to invest in the education of the youth of this world you are making an impact that you may never fully grasp. . . . Shine your light in a place and in a way you could have never imagined yourself.”***

- Have you witnessed education improving the life of a young person who was at risk of being marginalized? If so, please explain.
- How might you be able to shine your light through education to improve the life of a child or teen?

Audio Recordings

On the CD, listen to the audio recording *Educating Children, Foundations for Future Leaders* (16 min) or read aloud the following excerpt featuring an interview with Stephen Gualberto. Stephen is originally from the Philippines and is now a program development coordinator with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries.

(Narrator) "Describe the struggles your family faced during your childhood, and why education is important to you and how it has impacted your life."

(Stephen) "Let me tell you about my childhood days. I grew up in a slum area in Metro Manila. My parents didn't have the kind of education that would bring them to a good life in Metro Manila. . . . So they ended up living in the slum area. . . . Because they have experienced such poverty, they told me that education would be the primary thing that they could provide for me. And so education for me is very important because it prepares a person to face life; it helps the person make important decisions in life. Education for me also eradicates the cycle of poverty because it empowers the person; it gives them a whole perspective of life and of the world."

(Narrator) "Roughly 332 million children around the world are currently not enrolled in school. . . . Low attendance in schools and access to education [are] directly linked to poverty. How has the education you received as a child . . . made a difference in your life compared to the life that your parents had growing up?"

(Stephen) "My parents worked very hard so that they could send me to school, and so that education prepared me for who I am now. I was able to finish my elementary and high school in a Christian school."

(Narrator) "How was the quality of the education you received as a child? And how has it prepared you for today?"

(Stephen) "I'm privileged to have [had] an education in a Christian setting. . . . The church provides. . . . Quality education in an inexpensive way. . . . The church also gave me the kind of training that prepared me for life. . . . Because my parents had a hard time supporting my education, Child Sponsorship [also] came and ministered to me and helped my parents to sustain my education until my father was able to get a job."

(Narrator) "How can someone make a difference in a child's life in providing a proper education and a foundation for life?"

(Stephen) "One is the Child Sponsorship program. People can partner with us by sharing their resources. Twenty-five dollars a month will help a child finish his elementary and high school. That money goes to purchase school supplies for the child. . . . If the child is attending the child development program, that money also goes to the tutorial program of the child."

Discussion of *Educating Children, Foundations for Future Leaders:*

Question 1: How does lack of access to education and low attendance in school contribute to poverty?

Question 2: Besides Child Sponsorship, how else might we help provide much-needed educational training to children in need?

“Education improves life.”

What are ways proper education can improve a child's well-being?

- Education helps reduce poverty. When people stay in school, they are able to eventually earn more money and support their families.
- Education is essential to improving health, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS, and enabling families to better cope with illness.
- A single year of primary school increases the wages people earn later in life by 5 to 15 percent for boys and even more for girls. For each additional year of secondary school, an individual's wages increase by 15 to 25 percent.

What are the consequences when a child has no access to education?

- No country has ever achieved continuous and rapid economic growth without first having at least 40 percent of its adults able to read and write.
- Without education, 7 million new cases of HIV/AIDS will fail to be prevented over the next decade.
- If not in school, children end up working to support their family or staying home to take care of younger siblings or sick members of the family.

Facts about global education for children:

- Today, 75 million children are missing out on schooling.
- A child born to a literate mother is 50 percent more likely to survive past the age of five.
- Currently, 250 million children work to help support their families.
- 60 percent of children not in school are girls.
- Half of the world's unschooled children live in communities where the language used in school is different than what is used at home.

(Information adapted from: <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/why-education-for-all/millionsmissout/>)

Why do many children lack education?

- They cannot afford the cost of going to school (tuition, fees, uniforms, books, etc.).
- They live in rural areas where there are no schools.
- They live in areas of armed conflict, fleeing their homes in search of refuge and sometimes being forced to fight in wars in which they played no part.

ASK:

- Why do Christians have a responsibility for helping to feed, clothe, and educate children in need around the world?
- What were Jesus' feelings toward children?
- What are some ways you've seen Christians reach out to children both locally and globally?
- Are there areas nearby where your local congregation could do more? Where?

How has the Church of the Nazarene responded?

The Church of the Nazarene is committed to supporting the educational needs of Nazarene children throughout the world. This is primarily done through our **Pastors' Children Education** program and our **Child Development Centers** worldwide. Our Pastor's Children Education program provides monthly support for children's school needs, such as assisting in the purchase of tuition, books, supplies, and/or uniforms. Additionally, our nearly 100 Child Development Centers worldwide provide worship and Bible lessons, educational mentoring and tutoring, formal academic training (in some cases), skills training, recreational activities, summer camps, and other developmental activities. They also provide regular medical and dental checkups. In addition to the children, the centers equip the children's parents and caretakers by providing Bible studies, parenting seminars, and moral support. Currently over 13,500 children in 80 countries are enrolled in the Child Sponsorship program, which provides for their educational and developmental needs.

The denomination's holistic approach to child development seeks to simultaneously address the physical, emotional, relational, intellectual, and spiritual aspects of a child's life. Our Child Development programs incorporate a variety of approaches to help educate and grow children into healthy, sustainable adults ready and eager to serve the Lord.

The Church of the Nazarene has also recently begun a new program, The **Leadership Education and Advancement Program (LEAP)**, to help provide scholarships for continued education after high school graduation for children who have grown up in the Child Sponsorship program and have shown exemplary leadership ability.

Do something that matters. (Get Involved!):

- Increase awareness. Talk to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers about the extended need for education in your area as well as globally.
- Sponsor a child through an organization such as Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, which helps children pay for school costs and seeks to holistically meet their needs. Go to www.cs.ncm.org for more information.

- After graduation from high school, many youth cease their education. Help contribute to the ongoing educational support of these young people through the Nazarene LEAP program. (See included LEAP Cause or go to <http://www.ncm.org/leap> for more information.)

Conclusion

Education is instrumental in tackling poverty. When individuals are given the opportunity to learn basic life and literary skills, economies grow faster and poverty rates decline. When people go to school, they are provided a greater opportunity to earn money and support their families.

Prayer Points

- Pray for the 10,600 children sponsored through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, as well as their sponsors.
- Pray that God raises up more people for the 2,500 children still in need of sponsors.
- Pray for the ongoing education and discipleship of children and young people throughout the world. Pray God helps them thrive as Christian adults who will eventually raise children of their own in the way of Christ.
- Pray God blesses your congregation with a compassionate heart toward children and young people both at home and around the world.

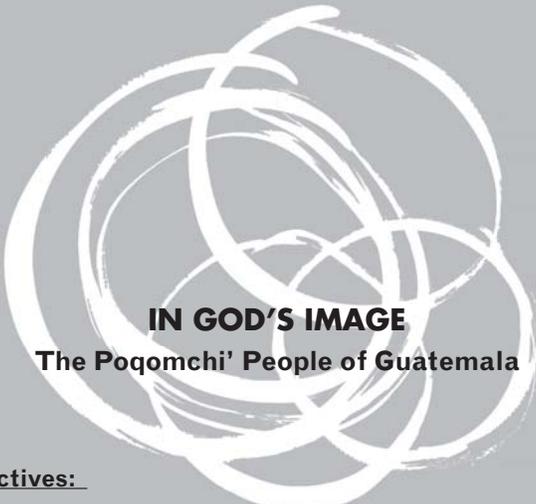
Specific request for Nazarene congregations and educational institutions:

- Pray for the Church of the Nazarene's educational institutions (Bible schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries) as they prepare students for leadership. Pray as they join local churches and families in taking responsibility to prepare clergy and laity to raise the next generation of children and youth to be biblically and theologically literate and to meet the known and unforeseen challenges for evangelizing, discipling, and transforming their societies.

Pray for our local congregations' ministries to children. Pray that they:

- provide effective and empowering ministries to the whole child—physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually;
- articulate Christian positions on current social justice issues that affect children;
- connect children to the heart of the mission and ministry of the faith community;
- disciple children and train them to disciple others;
- equip parents to nurture the spiritual formation of their children.





IN GOD'S IMAGE

The Poqomchi' People of Guatemala

Lesson Objectives:

To understand . . .

1. *Who* the Poqomchi' people are
2. *Where* they live
3. *Why* this people group have felt overlooked
4. *How* the Church of the Nazarene is reaching out to these "forgotten people"

Lesson Preparation:

Have a small table with snacks set up in the room. At the beginning of the lesson, invite anyone whose birthday falls anywhere between January and June to get up and enjoy refreshments.

In the meantime, busy yourself setting up for the lesson, talking with those getting snacks, and so on, but obviously overlooking the others in the room.

Finally, instruct everyone to take their seats, then ask those who didn't get anything to eat how it felt to be overlooked and forgotten. Ask the others how it felt to be given special treatment.

This lesson will focus on the topic of forgotten people, specifically a group of people in Guatemala known as the Poqomchi' (POH-kohm-chee).

Lesson Presentation:

Video

On the DVD, watch the video titled *Image* (10 min).

Discussion of Image:

From the video: ***"Jesus is asked one day, 'Who is my neighbor?' He answers by telling the story of the Good Samaritan."***

- In your life, who are the people Jesus would say are your neighbors?
- How do these same neighbors sometimes become "forgotten people"?

From the video: "***Making sure my neighbors are OK, placing myself in their situation, means I can share in the joy of their healing and redemption just as I shared in the sorrow of their former circumstances.***"

- What does it mean to place yourself in the situation of your neighbors?
- Can you tell of a time when, having shared in your neighbors' sorrow, you rejoiced in their healing and redemption?

From the video: "***This world is full of forgotten people; not because God has forgotten this world, but because we have forgotten what it means to bear His image. We have forgotten to look into the face of the hurting and see the very face of God. We have forgotten to love our neighbor with a passion that won't allow us to remove ourselves from their place of suffering.***"

- How can we be bearers of the image of God?
- What would a life look like when lived with a Christlike passion for our suffering neighbors?

Audio Recording

On the CD, listen to the audio recording *Forgotten People Around the World and Next Door* (23 min.) or read aloud the following excerpt:

(Narrator) "Describe for us what an unreached people group is."

(Missionary) "The definition we tend to use for unreached people is an ethnic language group having no church-planting movement strong enough to evangelize the entire group. . . . There can be unreached people right in a city or a community that has many, many churches. . . . They [just] don't have someone of their ethnic language group in their culture presenting the gospel to them in a way that they clearly understand."

(Narrator) "Share with us how the Church of the Nazarene is reaching out to unreached people groups on the Asia-Pacific Region."

(Missionary) "We are in a region that has about 60 percent of the world's unreached people groups. . . . We are working with a number of unreached people groups. . . . In this last year we have helped establish some new people in a country working with what we would call a gateway city. They are there developing relationships, working in a strategic role. And God is opening the door for them. . . . We are working on also establishing folks in another creative access country on the region very soon. . . . I wish I could be more open about what's happening; but in addition to placing people in areas with unreached people, we are also developing radio programs and other materials for them."

"One of the other things that we're really excited about and seeing more of . . . is reaching people through daily relationships—neighbors right next door who are

from unreached people groups. We rub shoulders with them everyday. . . . When we do that, we are seeing people having a curiosity about who we are and what we believe and being drawn to Christ.

"We're trying to take this to a broader scale to all the cities of our region. We have over 100 cities on our region with over a million people, with less than three percent Christian population. One of the ways for us to enter and to make a difference is to get our people in there as business professionals, medical professionals, teachers . . . basically any way that we can get people in to work and serve and live in community and develop these kinds of relationships."

(Narrator) "Why must the church use a new mentality in reaching these unreached people groups?"

(Missionary) "Well, one reason is the urgency of the task and the overwhelming numbers of people. . . . Many of those countries don't accept people on missionary visas or, in many cases, on NGO (non-governmental organization) visas."

(Narrator) "What can someone in their own city do to build these [types of cross-cultural] relationships?"

(Missionary) "The first thing people need to do is overcome fear. . . . Love is the key. The opposite of love is not hate, it's fear. . . . See people as people. . . . And then taking it to the next level, inviting them to coffee, to tea, inviting them into your home. . . . Once you get to know people, . . . the fear goes away."

Discussion of Forgotten People Around the World and Next Door:

Question 1: Did anything surprise you about the missionary's definition of an unreached people group?

Question 2: Why is the traditional missionary approach ineffective in many areas of this particular region?

Question 3: Can you think of an unreached people group in your own neighborhood or community?

Who are the Poqomchi' people?

- The Poqomchi' [POH-kohm-chee] people are one of 23 distinct indigenous groups of Mayan descent in Guatemala.
- There are approximately 50,000 to 100,000 Poqomchi', making them one of the smallest and least-developed groups in the country.
- A majority of these people are subsistence farmers.
- Most Poqomchi' children do not attend school past the sixth grade.
- They are a superstitious group of people who live in fear of punishment from God or from other gods they believe in.

Facts about the Poqomchi':

- They have the highest rate of maternal mortality in the country.
- They live in the southern part of Alta Verpaz, Guatemala.
- Literacy rate—in the Spanish language: 15 percent; in the Poqomchi' language: 1 percent.
- Thirty-five percent of this people group live in extreme poverty.

Why are the Poqomchi' considered "Forgotten People"?

- For decades the Church of the Nazarene ministered among Spanish-speakers and other indigenous groups in Guatemala, but the Poqomchi' people felt left out due to their language differences.
- The Poqomchi' people also experience frustration because they do not have religious materials in their own language.
- Pastors have to read the Bible in Spanish to their congregations and then translate it into Poqomchi'.

ASK:

- Was there ever a time in your life when you felt overlooked? How did you react?
- Have you ever been in a place where you couldn't understand what people were saying around you? What were your emotions at that time?
- Can you think of people who you pass by on a regular basis but don't really "see"?

How has the Church of the Nazarene responded to the forgotten Poqomchi' people?

The Church of the Nazarene actually began a Poqomchi' Bible translation more than 30 years ago. In 1983, the New Testament was completed. However, in 2000 the Guatemalan government adopted a standardized written alphabet for the country's Mayan languages. Thus, a new translation of the Bible was needed.

In October of 2009, the final translated version of the entire Bible in Poqomchi' was sent to the printers, and a moving Bible dedication celebration was held in November. Volunteer missionaries Alissa and Giovanni Monterroso commented, "What an amazing thing to see thousands weeping in gratitude to the Lord and begging in hope for a new day for the Poqomchi' people."

With the Bible translation completed, work moved to the translation of the JESUS Film. Because of the low literacy rate among this group of people, the film is a powerful evangelistic and discipleship tool for the Poqomchi'. As a result, the Bible translators—a father/daughter team—eagerly agreed to work on the translation of the film script.

Instead of having a full set of dramatized voices, a single-voice narration was produced. This helped keep the cost down and sped up production for a language with a small number of speakers.

Now the Poqomchi' people have two powerful Christian resources to help them continue their growth in the Lord.

(Source: NCNews, October 8, 2009)

Do something that matters. (Get Involved!):

- Consider these passages for reflection: Joshua 1:9, Psalm 107:1, Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 40:31, Matthew 25:40 and 45, and Psalm 119:105.
- Encourage your church to participate in the Poqomchi' CAUSE found in this volume of *Living Mission*.
- Purposefully choose to say hello to someone you might never notice in your normal comings and goings. Perhaps it's the person cleaning your office or the individual who mows your lawn. See what difference a kind word can make.
- Consider going on a Ministry trip through JESUS Film Harvest Partners. Visit www.jfhp.org for more details.

Conclusion

God cares about people—in every color, shape, size, and location of the world. As Christians, we must be more intentional about getting outside of our own little boxes to see the overlooked people around us. Who bags our groceries? Who delivers our mail? Who cleans up after us at a restaurant? Who needs someone to simply smile and say hello?

Christ lived an intentional life here on earth . . . where He purposefully chose to see and know those around Him. He ate in their homes. He talked with them along the road. He taught them from the hillside.

Who can we notice today?

Prayer Points

- Thank God for the many people who worked tirelessly to complete both the translation of the Bible in Poqomchi' and the translated script for the JESUS Film. Pray God blesses their work.
- Pray that God raises up strong Christian leaders among the Poqomchi' people to help train and disciple the next generation.
- Pray that God shows us as a church where other forgotten people might be living and how we can reach out to them with the gospel.
- Ask God to open your eyes to someone around you who might be overlooked. Then ask how you can show kindness to that person.





**LIVING MISSION CAUSE:
Leadership Education and Advancement Program (LEAP)**

Preparation

Instructions: Before the presentation, display the LEAP poster and LEAP CAUSE brochures in the lobby for people to peruse. (Additional copies of these items are available for printing on the Resource CD.) Play the LEAP CAUSE video *Reflecting Knowledge* (found on the Resource DVD) to introduce the LEAP CAUSE.

Presentation

1. Play the video titled *Child Sponsorship: Tskani's Story*. (This can be found in the clickable links document on the Resource CD.)

2. Briefly describe the importance of education around the world.

- Everyone deserves a quality education. Yet right now **75 million children and 774 million adults** are missing out.
- Most of the children and adults who lack an education are from some of the poorest countries in the world.
- Education helps **reduce poverty**. When people go to school, they are able to eventually earn more money and support their families.
- Education is essential to **improving health**, halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and enabling families to better cope with illness.
- Everyone, no matter where they are born, deserves a chance to receive a quality education.

(Information adapted from <http://www.campaignforeducation.org/en/why-education-for-all/millionsmissout/>)

- Currently more than 13,500 children in 80 countries are enrolled in the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries' (NCM) Child Sponsorship program. Communication between the child and his or her sponsor is encouraged and recommended.
- This program is designed to help fund education for children and young people worldwide. The **Leadership Education and Advancement Program (LEAP)** is a scholarship program that gives sponsored children who show exemplary leadership the chance to continue their education and receive leadership training. Through **LEAP**, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries envisions a future where once-sponsored children are effective, equipped, and influential Nazarene leaders using their gifts to transform society for the kingdom of God.

3. Sponsorship Personal Story

Audio Recording: Play the personal story of Stephen Gualberto on the audio recording entitled *Educating Children: Foundations for Future Leaders* found on the Resource CD.

4. Dialogue Questions (useful for a small-group setting)

- We know it says in the Bible that we are to care for those in need. Why do you think many Christians avoid that responsibility?
- Discuss Jesus' feelings toward children and reflect on whether Christians today echo those feelings.

- What are some ways you've seen Christians reach out to children both locally and globally?
- How can you as an individual, as well as your church, participate in a child's life?

5. Practical ways your congregation can get involved

- 1) Educate to increase awareness: Talk to friends, neighbors, and coworkers about the need for education worldwide. Share with them about NCM's Child Sponsorship Program and LEAP education program as ways to help.
- 2) Educate by raising money to help. Have a book sale or set up an auction. Involve the entire church and explain how their support will help children receive a good education.
- 3) Invest in children:
 - For \$25 a month, you can sponsor a child
 - Nazarene Child Sponsorship is a relationship between you and a child in need. Your sponsorship provides the opportunity for education, social and physical development, and spiritual growth. Specific activities of our child development program include academic tutorials, skills training, medical and dental checkups, spiritual development through Bible lessons and worship, parenting seminars.
 - You can develop a relationship with your sponsored child by writing to your child and receiving letters in return.
 - Sponsor a child today! You can do this online at **www.cs.ncm.org** or by following the instructions on the Child Sponsorship brochure (*found in the clickable links document on the Resource CD.*).

With the Leadership Education and Advancement Program (LEAP), child sponsorship graduates who have shown exemplary leadership ability and choose to continue their education in their own countries are assisted through scholarships.

With your help and financial support, a child can grow into a dynamic Nazarene leader for the future!

Join the LEAP initiative. You can do this online at **<http://www.ncm.org/leap/>** or by downloading and distributing the LEAP brochure (*found on the Resource CD*).

Conclusion

Education is instrumental in tackling poverty. When individuals are given the opportunity to learn basic life and literacy skills, economies grow faster and poverty rates decline. When people go to school, they are provided a greater opportunity to earn money and support their families.

Prayer Points

- Pray God raises up more people for the 2,500 children still in need of sponsors.
- Pray for the ongoing education and discipleship of children and young people throughout the world, helping them to thrive as Christian adults raising children of their own in the way of Christ.
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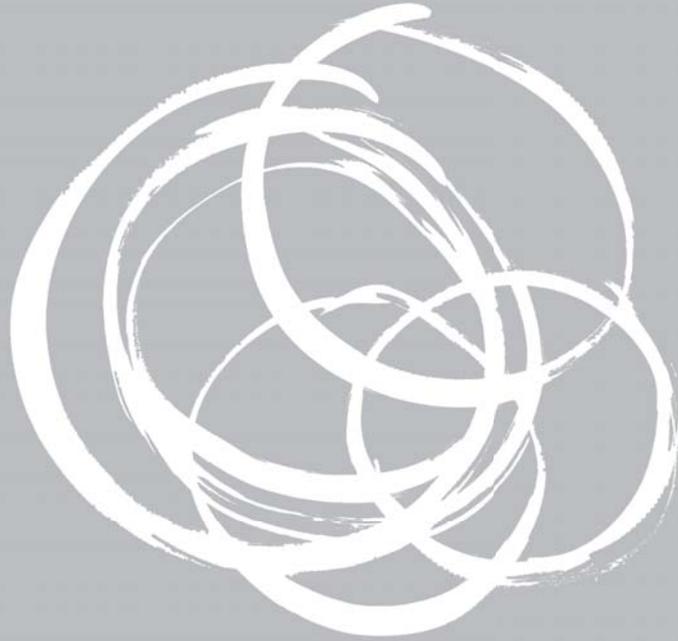
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Pray for your local congregation's ministries to children. Pray that they:

- provide effective and empowering ministries to the whole child—physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually;
- articulate Christian positions on current social justice issues that affect children;
- connect children to the heart of the mission and ministry of the faith community;
- disciple children and train them to disciple others;
- equip parents to nurture the spiritual formation of their children.





**LIVING MISSION CAUSE:
Forgotten People (the Poqomchi' of Guatemala)**

Preparation

- Include the Poqomchi' (POH-kohm-chee) CAUSE brochure in your bulletin
- Include Poqomchi' facts in your bulletin or church newsletter for several weeks
- Make preparation to show the "Forgotten People: The Poqomchi' of Guatemala PowerPoint" presentation.

(The brochure, PowerPoint, and Poqomchi' fast facts document are available on the Resource CD.)

Presentation

1. Introduction Ideas

a. Give greetings with incorrect words.

Let me share with you what it might be like for the Poqomchi' people to sit in a service that is not in their primary language:

*Today I **tomato** you in the **banana** name of **Lily** Jesus. I have **pineapple** news for **hibiscus**. For God so **cucumbered** the world that he **zucchini**ed his only **rose**, that whoever **spinach** in him **potato** not perish but have **watermelon** life.*

Do you know what I was saying? You probably understood part of it.

What I was trying to say was:

Today I **greet** you in the **holy** name of **Christ** Jesus. I have **good** news for **you**. "For God so **loved** the world that he **gave** his one and only **Son**, that whoever **believes** in him shall not perish but have **eternal** life."

b. Ask the following questions

How many of you own

- A Bible?
- A devotional book?
- More than one devotional book?
 - Until recently the Poqomchi' people did not have a complete Bible because it had not been translated into their language.
 - If the Bible had never been translated into English, how helpful would a Greek Bible be to you?
 - What if the only time you could experience the Word of God was at church when it was read by an interpreter?

It is hard to believe in our technologically advanced world that a whole people group wouldn't have the Bible in their own language. These people were truly forgotten.

2. Show "Forgotten People: The Poqomchi' of Guatemala" PowerPoint presentation (found on the Resource CD).

3. Share background information on the Poqomchi' people:

- For decades the Church of the Nazarene has worked in Guatemala to "make Christlike disciples." But the Poqomchi' people were often inadvertently overlooked.
- The Poqomchi' are one of 23 distinct indigenous groups of Mayan descent in Guatemala.

- They are one of the smallest and least-developed groups in the country.
- The area where the Poqomchi' live ranks second highest in poverty nationally at 75 percent.
- A majority are farmers, growing predominantly corn, which is their main food. Other common foods include beans, chicken, turkey, chilies.
- Women weave textiles on backstrap looms as they have for centuries. They also make products from the locally grown maguey plant.
- In rural areas, girls often marry at age 15.
- Most Poqomchi' children do not attend school past the sixth grade. They are limited by access to educational facilities and the financial impact "higher" education has on the family.
- They are a religious people who live in fear of punishment from God or from the other gods they believe in.

Challenges

According to missionary Giovanni Monterroso the following challenges exist:

- Generally the people have felt left out or overlooked by Christian organizations.
- The Poqomchi' people experience frustration because they have not had biblical resources in their own language.
- Pastors have to read the Bible in Spanish to the congregation and translate it into Poqomchi'.
- When asked what makes the Poqomchi' people different from other people groups, the response is "our language—our language is what identifies us as Poqomchi'."

4. Play the audio recording *Forgotten People Around the World and Next Door* (found on the Resource CD).

5. How is the Church of the Nazarene responding?

- In the 1970s, Nazarene missionaries Betty and William Sedat began training a Poqomchi' Bible translation team in Tactic, Guatemala. Jose Maria Quej was one of the translation team members. For the last 20 years, he and his daughter, Adelina, have been the lead translators for the Poqomchi' Bible project, now coordinated through the Bible Society of Guatemala. To complicate matters, in 2000 the government of Guatemala adopted a standardized written alphabet for the country's Mayan languages. The Bible translation had to be revised.

- In October 2009, the final version of the entire Bible in Poqomchi' was finished and sent to the printers.
- With the translation of the Bible into Poqomchi', the door has been opened to develop evangelistic and discipleship resources.
- This translation allowed the JESUS Film to be the first evangelistic tool translated in the language of the Poqomchi'.
- The Poqomchi' people are asking for more resources in their language.
- Future plans indicate a desire to create a Poqomchi' district for the Church of the Nazarene.

6. Practical ways your congregation can get involved

The Poqomchi' people need resources to learn about God's love, to grow in their walk with Christ, and to disciple others. You can support this work through praying, discipling, giving, and educating.

a. Praying

- Pray for leaders and missionaries in Guatemala as they seek to reach out to the Poqomchi'.
- Pray for the hearts of the Poqomchi' people to be receptive to God's love.
- Pray for the new believers to grow strong in their faith.

b. Discipling

- Plan a JESUS Film Harvest Partners Ministry trip to deliver film equipment to the Poqomchi' for ongoing outreach.
- Plan a Work and Witness trip to build a church.

c. Giving

- Give to help develop other materials in the Poqomchi' language.
- Sponsor a child in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala (where the Poqomchi' live).

d. Educating

- Tell others about the Poqomchi' people and seek to recognize the forgotten people around you every day.
- Put on ragged clothes and sit quietly in a public place for 30 minutes. Count the number of people who make eye contact with you.

7. Dialogue Questions (useful for a small-group setting)

- How does it feel to be ignored?
- How would you feel if you were always overlooked?
- Who are some people we often overlook? (janitor, hotel maid, restaurant server, etc.)

8. Needs of the Poqomchi'

When asked to identify their top needs, the Poqomchi' people responded with the following:

Literature

School materials, discipleship materials, hymnal, and books in the Poqomchi' language.

Training Resources

Materials that will provide leadership training for laity, clergy, and church planters.

Building Projects

Work and Witness teams are needed to help the Poqomchi' people.

For a current listing of projects and more information, visit:

<http://www.livingmission.com>

Evangelism and Discipleship

Poqomchi' Evangelism and Discipleship can include resources such as:

- *Magdalena*, an inspirational film, in Poqomchi'
- *Story of JESUS for Children* in Poqomchi'
- Equipment and funding for three JESUS Film teams \$6,000 each
- JESUS Film Team annual funding—\$15,000 each team
- Proclaimer—\$200 each
- Bible Story Cloths—\$20 each
- Evangelism Soccer Balls—\$15 each

Information on all the above is available at www.jfhp.org.

Greatest Need of the Poqomchi' People

Areas of need for the Poqomchi' people will develop and change over time. A gift to the greatest need fund for the Poqomchi' people will be administered by the Mexico and Central America (MAC) Central Field strategy coordinator to the area of greatest need for the Poqomchi' people.

To get involved in the specific needs of the Poqomchi' people listed above, visit

<http://www.livingmission.com>

Conclusion

We are commanded in Matthew 27:19 to “go make disciples of all nations.” The Church of the Nazarene has lived out this command for more than 100 years. Jesus remembers the people we forget.

References:

Giovanni and Alissa Monterroso—Missionaries on the Mexico and Central America Region

Fact source **<http://www.pokomchihope.org/>**



Vol. 1
Living Mission Planner
and Lessons

Box contents include:

- 1 Forgotten People Planner with three lessons and two CAUSES
- 1 LEAP CAUSE brochure
- 1 LEAP CAUSE poster
- 1 Poqomchi' CAUSE brochure
- 1 Poqomchi' CAUSE poster

- 1 Resource CD containing:
 - 1 Planner with lessons and CAUSES (printable version)
 - Lesson 1: *Priceless People* (topic: human trafficking)
 - Lesson 2: *Lighting the Way* (topic: education of children)
 - Lesson 3: *In God's Image* (topic: Poqomchi' people of Guatemala)
 - LEAP CAUSE
 - Poqomchi' CAUSE
- 6 Global Village Podcasts:
 - Slavery in Our Midst (Lesson 1)
 - Indian Restaurant Story (Lesson 1)
 - Theresa's Story (Lesson 1)
 - The Church Responds (Lesson 1)
 - Foundation for Future Leaders (Lesson 2)
 - Around the World and Next Door (Lesson 3)
- 3 Lesson Discussion Guides (PowerPoint)
- 3 Lesson Take-Away Sheets
- 1 Clickable Web Links Document
- 1 LEAP CAUSE poster (printable in three sizes)
- 1 LEAP CAUSE brochure (printable in two sizes)
- 1 Poqomchi' CAUSE promotion PowerPoint presentation
- 1 Poqomchi' CAUSE Fast Facts
- 1 Poqomchi' CAUSE poster (printable in three sizes)
- 1 Poqomchi' CAUSE brochure (printable in two sizes)
- Logos: NMI, *Living Mission*, Forgotten People
- Permissions Statement

- 1 Resource DVD containing:
 - 3 Lesson Videos:
 - 001 Price Tags (*Priceless People* lesson)
 - 002 Lamp (*Lighting the Way* lesson)
 - 003 Image (*In God's Image* lesson)
 - 3 Lesson Video Trailers
 - 1 LEAP CAUSE promotion video —*Reflecting Knowledge*

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Nazarene Missions International