

2024 District Nazarene Discipleship International President's Report

To My Florida District Family:

I live much of my life in soundtrack. Whenever I see or hear something that makes me think of a song, it gets stuck in my head. I then start to either sing it, hum it, or whistle it. I can't be the only one who saw this year's theme and has been humming the tune to Full House. The second verse to that song says, "When you're lost out there and you're all alone, a light is waiting to carry you home." That sure sounds like what the Church does as it moves missionally into its community seeking to partner with what the Spirit is already doing as we continue to make disciples. I am a part of the Church of the Nazarene because of a local church missionally blessing its community one person at a time. I am excited that we have Tim Soerens sharing with us this year. He will be doing a breakout session that you won't want to miss. This will be my third and last report as the Chair of NDI for the Florida District. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve alongside of you for the past few years.

The Florida District is a unique gift of community. It is in this community that I have experienced the presence of God and the fellowship from those who are also on this Mission from the Lord. I want to thank Rev. Dale Schaeffer for his help and leadership to this district and his friendship to me. Thanks to our council (Julie, Glen, Heather, Bernice, Nico, Ed, Alfa, Sara, and Nita) who have given of themselves this year to organize, plan, and dream about how we might help strengthen churches for participation in the Great Commission.

Thanks so much to Alfa Renegar who leads our **Childrens Bible Quiz Program**. She is a treasure to this district and my favorite meeting host. Under her leadership this year, 60 quizzers participated from 10 churches and quoted over 200 Bible verses as they studied the Gospel of Matthew. Several of our children participated in World Quiz in Indianapolis this summer and represented us well. The Word of God does not return void.

A huge thanks to our District Childrens Director, Missy Segota. Pastor Missy stepped down this summer as Children's Director. I just want to thank her for loving our children and serving these last few years. I am pleased to announce that Pastor Nico Jaimes from Apopka Calvary has accepted the position of Children's Director for the Florida District. Pastor Nico is a young man who grew up on this district and is a great asset to our team. **Scott Humston** is our Kids speaker this weekend. They are gonna have a blast.

Our attendance at camp this year was 173 with several salvations reported. **Children's camp** is scheduled for July 29-August 2 at Lake Placid. Heather Ryder is our Kids Camp director. Registration is open and plans are underway. Be sure to get signed up. The food is amazing at Kids Camp.

We hosted the second **Florida District Softball Tournament** last May with 13 teams and 16 churches participating. The DS even played 2nd base. Congratulations to Tampa Crosspointe for winning the Championship. This year's Softball tournament will again be held in St Petersburg, on May 25th. Get signed up!

Thanks also to our 8 delegates that **attended General Assembly** in Indianapolis this summer (Heather, Nico, Alfa, Gerald, Julie, Missy, Glen, and me).

Two years ago, SDMI adjusted its name to NDI (Nazarene Discipleship International). We didn't give up on Sunday School! But we recognize that Christlike Disciples are not solely made in a classroom setting. Discipleship is a journey that we have been invited on that starts with grace, is led by grace, and grows in grace. The mission of Nazarene Discipleship International (NDI) is to carry out the Great Commission to children, youth, and adults in preparation for a lifelong journey of being and making Christlike disciples in the nations.

The purpose of NDI is to assist local churches in:

- a. Reaching non-believers for Jesus
- b. Establishing new believers in their faith in Christ
- c. Walking with believers to a fully surrendered, heart-cleansed, fruit-bearing, and Spirit-filled life.

NDI promotes the following five Core Principles that are essential to the discipleship process:

- a. Fervent Prayer
- b. Compassionate Outreach
- c. Comprehensive Biblical Learning
- d. Intentional Mentoring and Equipping
- e. Authentic Relationships

Thanks to all of you who have participated in making Christlike Disciples this year. I pray that you will find the gift that exists within NDI on this district to help resource and strengthen you as we, Together, fulfill the call to make Christlike Disciples in the Nations.

Consumed by the Call,

Rev. B Lamar Courtney, Florida District NDI President