



# DEVELOPING THE FUTURE

## Planning Guide

2015 Thank Offering for the World Evangelism Fund

*"Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord." Psalm 22:30b, NLT*



# Introduction

*I will praise you in the great assembly.  
I will fulfill my vows in the presence of those who worship you.  
The poor will eat and be satisfied.  
All who seek the Lord will praise him.  
Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.  
The whole earth will acknowledge the Lord and return to him.  
All the families of the nations will bow down before him.  
For royal power belongs to the Lord.  
He rules all the nations.  
Let the rich of the earth feast and worship.  
Bow before him, all who are mortal,  
all whose lives will end as dust.  
Our children will also serve him.  
Future generations will hear about the wonders of the Lord.  
His righteous acts will be told to those not yet born.  
They will hear about everything he has done.*  
*Psalm 22:25-31, NLT*

This year's World Evangelism Fund Thank Offering celebrates how our time, prayers, and donations help spread the gospel. Through language schools, church plants, mission hospitals, and many other ministries, God uses our gifts to do amazing things. Imagine what God will do through our generation and those that follow as we continue to serve Him. Today's sacrificial giving to the Church of the Nazarene around the world assists in **Developing the Future**.

Included in the Planning Guide are:

- Tips on how to use the available resources to promote the offering
- Suggested timeline for talking about the offering with your congregation
- Customizable scheduling tool for pastors and church leaders

There are many other resources available to you though [nazarene.org/generosity](http://nazarene.org/generosity), the official website of the 2015 Thank Offering:

- Videos, including "Developing the Future"
- Sermon helps
- Personal stories of gratitude, generosity, and the World Evangelism Fund
- Children's activity sheets
- Posters
- Bulletin inserts
- Bookmarks
- Devotionals

## Tips for How and When to Use the “Developing the Future” Resources

The “Developing the Future” Thank Offering for the World Evangelism Fund will be received on 26 November 2015 globally, and 12 October 2015 in Canada. However, many regions and districts worldwide choose to have their offerings on other dates. If you are unsure of when your church should receive the Thank Offering, please feel free to contact your local district or field office.

By reviewing the available resources early and planning carefully, you can lead your congregation into a time of prayerful remembrance and giving. This offering is not about how much we give; it is about our gratitude to God and our willingness to respond to His blessings.

There are many ways for you to use the available Thank Offering resources. Be creative! You can change your order of service on the day of the offering, distribute invitations to your community, or create small group Bible studies for the month of the offering. Every resource can be adapted to fit the unique personality of your congregation.

Here is one potential timeline for promoting the offering in your church:

### Immediately

*Explore*—Explore [nazarene.org/generosity](http://nazarene.org/generosity), the official website for the offering. Note that at the top of the page there are links for resources in English, Spanish (Español), Portuguese (Português), French (Français), and Korean (한국어).

*Download*—Click on the “Resources” or “Stories” tab to view the material available for download. You may download items individually or click on the “All-in-One Download” to download all the print resources. Stories may be downloaded from the Stories page. Downloadable videos are also available. **Keep in mind that the “All-in-One Download” is a sizable download and may take a while, even with a speedy connection.** If your connection is slow, perhaps ask someone else to help you download the resources.

*Examine*—Read all of the documents and resources, especially those that pertain to leaders.

*Plan*—Gather your pastoral staff and NMI council to begin planning. Look at the materials, watch the videos, and distribute the appropriate resources to the individuals who will be responsible for them:

- All leaders
  - Planning Guide
- Pastor
  - Sermon—“Developing the Future”
  - Planning Guide
  - PowerPoint presentation
  - Stories of gratitude and generosity
- Children’s leader
  - Children’s activity sheets
  - Children’s lesson helps

- NMI council and other church leaders
  - Devotionals
  - Posters
  - Bulletin inserts
  - Bookmarks
  - Logos
  - World Evangelism Fund envelopes

### **Early Preparation**

- Make plans for events using the customizable scheduling tool on page four.
- Print resources for distribution.
- Pray for generosity and a heart for spreading the hope of the gospel in yourself and in your congregation.

***Note: For churches with no access to a printer, we will print and ship the resources free of charge. Please contact Stewardship Ministries at [stewardship@nazarene.org](mailto:stewardship@nazarene.org) or 1-800-544-8413.***

### **Month of Offering**

#### **Week 1**

- Present countdown video ([nazarene.org/generosity](http://nazarene.org/generosity))
- Distribute devotionals to congregation
- Present Thank Offering sermon
- Show PowerPoint slides before or during service

#### **Week 2**

- Present countdown video ([nazarene.org/generosity](http://nazarene.org/generosity))
- Distribute children's activity sheets
- Distribute bookmarks
- Present Thank Offering sermon
- Show PowerPoint slides before or during service

#### **Week 3**

- Celebrate Thank Offering for the World Evangelism Fund
- Present countdown video ([nazarene.org/generosity](http://nazarene.org/generosity))
- Present Video—"Developing the Future" ([nazarene.org/generosity](http://nazarene.org/generosity))
- Present Thank Offering sermon
- Show PowerPoint slides before or during service

**Scheduling tool:**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Bookmarks		Copy/Print on:  Distribute on:	
Posters		Copy/Print on:  Display on:	
Bulletin inserts		Copy/Print on:  Distribute on:	
Children's activity sheets		Copy/Print on:  Distribute on:	
Devotionals		Copy/Print on:  Explain and distribute	
PowerPoint presentation		Present on:	
Videos		Present on:	
Generosity stories		Present on:	
Receive the offering		Receive on:	