

CELEBRATING

HOLINESS



06 January 2012

Dear Pastor,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I would like to express my appreciation to you for your partnership in the mission to make Christlike Disciples in Africa. Your commitment to preach the Word, pray, equip the saints for the work of the ministry, care for the congregation and all other administrative and ministry related responsibilities that you carry out week after week is highly commendable. Thank you for all you do.

The Church of the Nazarene in the Africa Region is continuing to expand and grow. We celebrated reaching the half million mark in membership last year and our work in 42 of the 54 countries on the Africa continent. God has indeed blessed us as we have committed to build His church in Africa!

As we celebrate the expansion and growth of the church, it is critical that we remind ourselves of our primary objective as a denomination, which is to preserve and propagate Christian holiness as set forth in the Scriptures, through the conversion of sinners, the reclamation of the backsliders, and the entire sanctification of the believers.

In looking ahead, the Africa Regional Mission Team and Regional Advisory Council met in September 2011 to consider initiatives that will encourage continued holiness discipleship, holiness evangelism, leadership formation, and church development. They recommended and approved an initiative, "CELEBRATING HOLINESS", for the year 2012. This initiative does not replace your planning for the year 2012, but is to complement and enhance the current work of the local church in furthering the creation of a spiritual environment on the Africa Region where God is given freedom to bring ongoing holiness revival to our churches, and spiritual renewal to our leaders and members. We have identified and developed resources for this initiative that we hope will be a great aid to you and your congregation.

The initiative will begin on Ash Wednesday, 22 February 2012, with a time of deliberate prayer, fasting, study, and reflection leading to Easter Sunday on 08 April 2012. From Easter to Pentecost, 08 April – 27 May 2012, the church will continue in a time of study and reflection leading to personal and corporate Holiness as it relates to the Wesleyan tradition with the desired outcome of each participant entering or renewing a covenantal and accountability relationship with God and the Church.

A critical objective of this initiative is that it will be a catalytic agent for the church to “seek holy Christian fellowship, the conversion of sinners, the entire sanctification of believers, their upbuilding in holiness, and the simplicity and spiritual power manifest in the primitive New Testament Church” (*Manual 2009-2013*, ¶25).

Pastor, I would like to personally invite you and your local church to participate in the Celebrating Holiness initiative. Please review the list of resources which are included with this packet or will be provided at a later date, and feel free to contact your field strategy coordinators or my office for further assistance or clarification.

Thank you for participating in Celebrating Holiness!



Dr Filimao Chambo
Regional Director for Africa
Church of the Nazarene

The Continent of Africa:

- There are 54 countries on the continent of Africa:
 - 48 continental nations and 6 island nations
- Africa is the world's second largest and second most populous continent:
 - 11.7 million square miles
 - Population of 1 billion people (as of 2009)

The Church of the Nazarene at Work – Statistics:

- The Church is in 42 of the 54 countries on the continent of Africa
- The Church began in the north of Africa in Cape Verde in 1901
- The Church began in southern Africa in Swaziland in 1910
- From 1901 to 1950 the church was in four countries only
- From 1950 to 1980:
 - Membership = 37,000
 - Total countries entered = 9
- From 1980 to 1990:
 - Membership = 71,121
 - Total countries entered = 19
- From 1990 to 2000:
 - Membership = 173,690
 - Total countries entered = 35
- From 2000 to 2010:
 - Membership = 511,000
 - Total countries entered = 42
- The work of the Church of the Nazarene in Africa is new work:
 - 78.5 % of the work is about 30 years old or less
 - 61% of the work is about 20 years old or less
- Today there are 125 districts distributed in seven strategic fields:
 - Central
 - East
 - Horn
 - Lusophone
 - Middle
 - South
 - West
- And there are:
 - 4,237 organized and 4,195 not yet organized churches
 - Approximately 4,000 Trained Clergy across the continent
 - Over 6,750 learners at Nazarene Institutions preparing to be pastors
 - Over 549,000 members

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2012 RESOURCES

PRAYER & FASTING

DATES: 22 FEBRUARY – 08 APRIL

CELEBRATING HOLINESS

DATES: 08 APRIL – 27 MAY

PRAYER TOOLS:

- How to Pray
- Prayer Calendar
- Prayer Walking
- Prayer Summit
- Concert of Prayer & Praise
- The Hour That Changes The World

VIDEO from Dr Chambo

FASTING GUIDELINES

SERMON OUTLINES

***HOW TO START A SMALL
GROUP GUIDE***

***DEVOTIONALS FOR THE
FAMILY***

BIBLE STUDIES:

***Early Childhood, Elementary,
Youth, Adult***

PRINTED RESOURCES IN:

- *Amharic*
- *Chichewa*
- *English*
- *French*
- *Malagasy*
- *Portuguese*
- *Shangaan*
- *SiSwati*
- *Swahili*
- *Spanish*

ON THE WEB:

www.africanazarene.org