



What You Can and Can't Control

My personal devotional reading has cycled me back around to the book of Revelation and have been reminded of these words which seem so appropriate for us individually and as the church today.

⁹I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, (NIV).

If we pick these two verses apart, I think we can find some important perspectives that we need to hear.

First, let's look at what John could not control.

He could not control the suffering that he and his friends were experiencing.

Like you, I have become so weary of this COVID business and all the losses we are experiencing. My heart aches for every pastor and church as I hear report after report of Covid-related deaths, hospitalizations, and the like. As I hear how pastors have to cancel services again and again due to Covid spikes in their communities, or preach to empty chairs because so many are afraid to come out in this mess, my heart aches for what we are going through. I wonder when enough is going to be enough. It seems that every day we hear of another loss, another hospitalization, another positive test, another shut down, another cancellation, another disappointment, another reason to weep with those who weep. John's lesson to us here is simply to join in the companionship of suffering. We can't control this pandemic. We can try to manage it somewhat. Yet, what we need more than anything is simply to reach out to each other and remind one another that they are not alone. We walk in *together* in the *companionship of suffering* because we dare not allow anyone we love to walk alone.

He could not control the place of exile where he was located.

Another effect of this pandemic is that it has brought such separation from the things and the people that we love. I know people who have hardly left their homes in two years. Others only go out to essential places. We are sick of masks and social distancing. We are tired of being forced to vaccinate and hyperventilate. Work and Witness has ground to a halt. Mission deployments have been delayed. Many people have been unable to travel to see loved ones in more than two years. Others have lived through seasons of quarantine time and again. We are tired of this season of exile, but, like John, it is simply out of our control. So,

Now, let's look at what John determined he could control.

He controlled his commitment to the Christian community.

I love the way this conversation begins, "I John, your brother and companion...". Here is a man who is suffering and in exile, but he has not forgotten his identity. His identity was not formed by his suffering. Neither was his identity formed by his location. His identity was formed by his relationship to Jesus and to the church. He was all alone on Patmos, but he still has brothers and sisters in the church. He was on a deserted island, but he was not a deserted person. He had companionship as long as he had a connection to the people of God.

This is not a time to allow your connections to the church to grow slack. In fact, you need the church more than ever. And, even if you feel that you can go it alone, the church needs you. Our strength comes in companionship and brotherhood (and sisterhood). An army of one is not sufficient to face the trials that we are in. Reconnect to family, if you have drifted due to this season of separation.

He controlled his attitude toward his current situation.

John described his attitude as "patient endurance." Sometimes that's all we have. It would be great if "every day was a holiday" but we are not in that season. We are in a season that calls for the deep, settled, soul of patient endurance. Patient endurance comes from a place of rooted confidence in God who will never leave us without hope or without help. It draws from the well of experience from a relationship with God that gives us confidence. God has never failed us and He is not about to start failing us now. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength (Is. 40:31). Patient endurance comes from the sheep who know the Shepherd who comes even in the valley of the shadow of death to comfort, protect, and to provide.

He controlled how he would spend his Sundays: *On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit*

John was on Patmos. He couldn't go to church. There were no churches on Patmos. There were not even any other Christians on Patmos. There was no one taking attendance. He could not earn a Sunday School pin by going to Sunday School. He was a one-man-congregation. So, what did he do? He worshipped. It was "the Lord's Day"—Sunday. Therefore, John spent the day "in the Spirit." He was committed to spending Sunday with Jesus (period). And, because he was focused on Jesus, not on his sufferings; focused on Jesus, not on his circumstances; focused on Jesus, not on the church; focused on Jesus, not on the Roman empire that had treated him so unfairly; focused on Jesus, not on what others were doing; focused on Jesus, not on his isolation from other Christians; because he was focused on Jesus on the Lord's Day, heaven opened up to him and he saw unutterable mysteries that still confound us to this day.

Ancient lessons for a modern church. The wisdom of God for the people of God.

You are loved,

Dr. Larry Lacher

ACTIVITIES IN SOME OF OUR CHURCHES



Celebrating the legacy of Dr. King with a living witness, Rev. Earseye Ross in Ruidoso tonight.



No Regrets Men's Conference

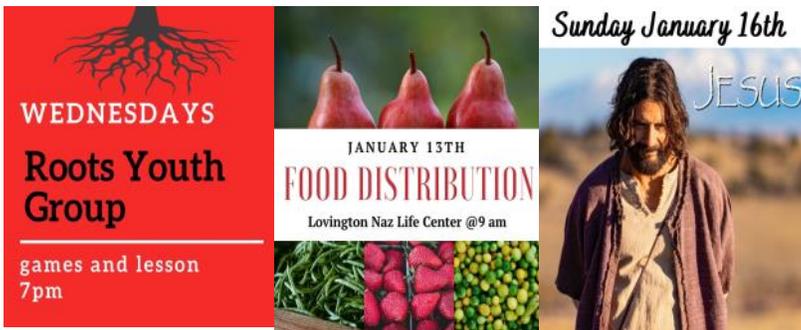
Saturday February 5, 2022
at Aztec Church of the Nazarene

1061 Hwy 516 Aztec NM
on the south side of road Hwy 516 between Flora Vista and Aztec
8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Get your Tickets at :
505-325-4900

Lovington Naz

This week: Youth Group Wednesday. Thursday is Lovington Food Coalition's food distribution. If you can volunteer or need assistance come to the Life Center at 9 am. Sunday is week 3 of our walk through Jesus's life.



Zone 2 January Quiz Meet was amazing.

We had 291 memory verses quoted. We had 16 Memory Masters 11 Red Quizzers and 16 Blue Quizzers. Carlsbad Teams took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place. Congratulations to everyone who participated. We are so proud of you Thank you Carlsbad for hosting.

Carlsbad Church Street CON

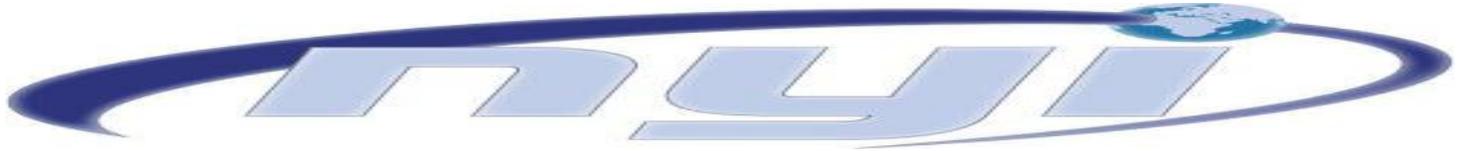


Cross Roads Community CON

Eli Wyatt is the New Head Baseball Coach for Aztec High School.

You're Invited! Join Pastor Eli Wyatt in a new Bible Study Series "A Better Way" Starting Jan 9 at 9:00am





Greetings, NM NYI!

The time is upon us to make nominations for our NYI Council. I have listed below the positions which will be up for nomination and vote this coming cycle. Please send me the names of your nominees along with their church, grade (if applicable), and contact information. Nominees must fit into the age range for which they are being nominated (starting in the fall of 2022). For example, someone who is in 8th grade this year is considered a senior high representative. They must also be a member of the Nazarene church, demonstrate an active relationship with Christ, and be a participating member of both their local and district NYI. These nominations will undergo approval by our current council at our meeting on February 5th and then our nominees will be contacted for their approval to allow their name to run on the ballot during our NYI convention at Bonita Park on Saturday, March 19th.

Nominations are due no later than **Thursday, February 3rd, at noon** and can be emailed to me.

Please let me know if you have any questions at all.

Be blessed,

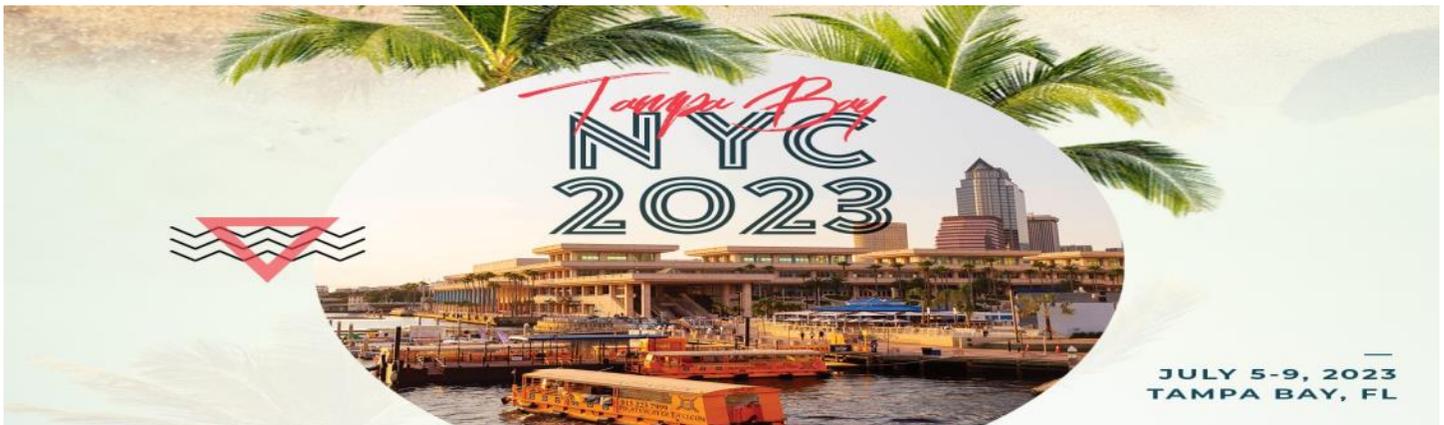
Jordin jordinwest@gmail.com

President

Young Adult Representatives (2 elected)

Senior High Representatives (2 elected)

Junior High Representatives (2 elected)



Pastors and Youth Leaders,

I wanted to touch base with you regarding NYC 2023. No new information has been released since my last email in August, but I wanted to let you know that I will be attending the NYI Leadership Conference in March where more details for NYC 2023 will be released. I will make sure I get those details out to you as soon as I get back from the conference so stay tuned! In the meantime, please be praying for NYC (not just the event itself, but for your students to have a life-changing encounter with God during the event). I also strongly encourage you to start fundraising NOW (if you haven't already). We don't yet know what the final cost will be, but we know it will be considerably more than NYC 2019 since we will be traveling further and prices for things, in general, have increased. I attached a list of fundraising ideas with my last email. If you did not receive it please let me know and I will put you on my email list.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns and be on the lookout for another email in March!

Hope you are blessed!

In His service,

Christa Storch

NM District NYC Coordinator

Love and Prayers to many of our district pastors,

Jayme Elftman's dad, John Michael "Mike" Whitehead, went to his heavenly home and was welcomed into the arms of Jesus. Please keep Jayme and Wade in your prayers

Patti and Bianca Rivas, their dad and grandfather Norman Evan Johnson retired U.S. Army, went to his heavenly home and was welcomed into the arms of Jesus. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Pete Myer's father, James L. "Jim" Myers, went to his heavenly home and was welcomed into the arms of Jesus. Please keep Pete, Cynthia and their family in your prayers.

Joyce Yocum's mother, Eunice Askling, went to her heavenly home and was welcomed into the arms of Jesus. Please keep Joyce, Ken, Ben, Stephanie and their family in your prayers.

Rebekah Beinhoff's grandfather, Pete Rushing, went to his heavenly home and was welcomed into the arms of Jesus. Please keep Rebekah, Nate and their family in your prayers.



UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE DISTRICT 2022

February

<i>W.I.M. Zoom</i>	<i>Feb. 26 11-12pm</i>	<i>Children's Quiz/Zone 1 & 2</i>	<i>Feb 12</i>
<i>Valentines Day</i>	<i>Feb 14</i>	<i>Teen Quiz (Rom. 1-James 2)</i>	<i>Feb 19</i>

March

<i>Dist. Kid Quiz</i>	<i>Mar 5</i>	<i>NM Xtreme NYI</i>	<i>Mar 18-19</i>
<i>Women's Retreat</i>	<i>Mar 25-27</i>	<i>Level Club Dues</i>	<i>March</i>
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<i>Mar 2 (Lent Begins)</i>		

April

<i>Ordinand's Retreat</i>	<i>April 6-7</i>	<i>Year End Meetings</i>	<i>April 7-9</i>
<i>Palm Sunday</i>	<i>April 10</i>	<i>Easter</i>	<i>April 17</i>
<i>Man Camp</i>	<i>April 22-24</i>		

May

****ANNUAL PASTOR'S REPORTS DUE May 11**

July

****District Assembly and Conventions July 7-9 2022**

To see the entire NM District schedule go to: nmnaz.com and look under the Calendar tab.



Greetings, NM District!

The face of NMI is shifting! The way we share information is constantly in motion. If you are not receiving NMI Central (formerly the Prayer Mobilization Line), you will be missing critical information for all things NMI and Nazarene Missions!

This is today's edition, which focuses on Kenya and Alabaster. Links to everything you need to know about Alabaster are embedded in this email.

There is a link at the very bottom where you can sign up to receive these weekly emails. These emails will have the most current NMI information available in an easy-to-read format.

Pastors and NMI Leaders can use these weekly emails to share current missions needs and find sources for the 5 Areas of Impact throughout the year.

Please sign up today so you do not miss an edition!

Also, please sign up on Facebook to follow our NM NMI Facebook page. Lisa does a fantastic job keeping us updated on NMI News from all over the world through our FB page.

<https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoNMI>

Joyfully,
Nicole Young
NM District NMI President

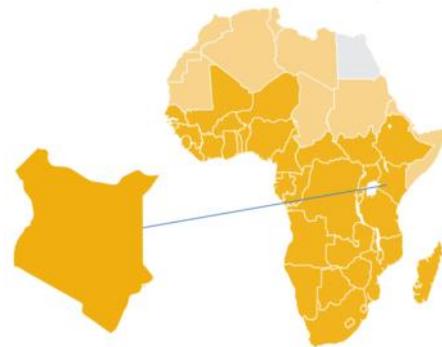
Alabaster Story | Kenya Eastern District Center

Thanks to a God-given vision, a united district, focused leaders, and an Alabaster offering, the Kenya Eastern District and Training Centre (KEDTC) is finished! God is already using the new facility for His glory, allowing people from across the district to create new music, train, meet, worship, and grow together. The neatly painted, wooden-sided building provides space for at least 48 pastors and lay leaders who attend training programs and seminars and serves as housing during the events. The space also hosts a local radio station and a recording studio where people record songs and sermons. All the district ministries have offices there as well.

Once it was time to build, church members gave water and sand to the construction, skilled and unskilled labor, and furnishings and finances. Their work was paired with a significant gift of Alabaster funds. Rev. Augustus Musili, the district superintendent of the Kenya Eastern District, said the united effort from members across the district “. . . presented us with an enhanced picture of who we are as a church. We have a heart to pursue the Great Commission.”



KENYA



The Church of the Nazarene began work in Kenya in 1984. In 1985, missionary Harmon Schmelzenbach III came to Kenya to explore opportunities for church planting and began by inviting a few families to a house fellowship that grew into a church, Nairobi Central Church of the Nazarene. Africa Nazarene University is located in Nairobi, Kenya, and serves students from over 27 African countries and other countries around the world. Click [here](#) to read more about ANU. Kenya is part of the Africa East Field on the Africa Region and has a population of approximately 54.7 million people. Kenya's major languages are English, Kiswahili, and numerous indigenous languages

Women's Retreat 2022

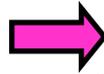


NM District Women's Retreat March 25-27, 2022

"Choose: An Invitation to the Best Day Ever Adventure" With Carrie Wisheart

She is a mom, wife, worship leader, song writer, prayer warrior, author, high school educator/principal.

It is going to be an exciting time!!! Plan to join us and bring some ladies with you.



Remember, the first 150 ladies to register will receive a book by Carrie.

**Spanish Translation
Available**

**Saturday Night Theme:
Your BEST Adventure!!!!**

Registration is open online just go to nmnaz.com.

For more information contact Pastor DeAnn at pastordeann16@gmail.com

Retreat is coming fast now!!! Remember to register online at nmnaz.com. We just have under 50 days before retreat starts and even less to get in for the price bread this year. If you have any questions about that, please let me know. This is going to be a great time together. It has been far too long since we have been together! Things are looking up and I am so glad we can finally see each other in person again.

Dorothy has some information for the craft fair and the silent auction. Please let Dorothy know if you have any questions regarding this. Call me or email me, Dorothy Rogers, 575-937-2860 or rdano101@yahoo.com with the information on your craft table. This way we will be ready for you when you arrive at the retreat.

Retreat Registration begins at 1:00PM MDT on Friday, March 25, 2022.

Looking forward to a wonderful retreat!!!

Spread the word!!!! We are back again at Bonita Park for retreat!!!! Bring a friend with you. Be in prayer as we know God has great things in store for us at this retreat!!

So excited!!!!!!
DeAnn
505-934-8009

RETREAT CRAFT FAIR
2022 New Mexico District Ladies Retreat
Friday, March 25, 2022 thru Sunday, March 27, 2022

INFORMATION

We are excited that again this year we will have a craft fair at our retreat. The craft fair is an excellent opportunity for your local ladies to display their many wonderful crafts for sale during the open times at the retreat.

Why not get a group of your ladies to join together, combine their efforts and share one or two tables. A portion of the table's sales then could go to your local ladies ministries. You decide, you may want to establish a local ladies retreat scholarship fund for future retreats.

The craft fair is not limited to homemade crafts, however, because of state health laws, we will not be able to have homemade baked goodies for sale at our fair. Nor is it a "garage sale". However, "THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX" when it comes to what you want to offer for sale at our craft fair. In the past we have had Avon ladies, Tupperware and other trade vendors. Because we are a fairly small craft fair, we will need to limit this to only one vendor from each business. Reservations will be on a FIRST COME FIRST SERVED basis.

We will have our craft fair in the Morris Center Fireplace Room. The fair will be open any hours that Morris Center is open. You can have your table open during meal times, including breakfast. The fair will be closed during services, so plan to bring a bed sheet or a large table cloth to cover your table when you will not be able to be there to attend to it.

You will be able to set up your table and open it anytime on Friday. The tables will be arranged and labeled with a table number on them. **When you arrive at the retreat come to the registration table in Armstrong Tabernacle. There, you will be able to pay for your table and get your table assignment.**

Because of the limited space and number of tables we have available, we may need to limit the number of tables to no more than one(1) per vendor. If you can bring your own table let me know ahead of time. Individuals sharing a craft table will be considered as one (1) vendor.

Also, remember that space is limited so be careful about tall or large displays that may interfere with the crafter next to you.

COST: \$10.00 PER TABLE

Call me or email me, Dorothy Rogers, 575-937-2860 or rdano101@yahoo.com with the information on your craft table. This way we will be ready for you when you arrive at the retreat.

Retreat Registration begins at 1:00PM MDT on Friday, March 25, 2022.

Looking forward to a wonderful retreat!!!!

New Mexico District 2022 Ladies Retreat

SILENT AUCTION

Friday, March 25, 2022 and Saturday, March 26, 2022

We are planning on having our Silent Auction again this year. This is a very important and vital part of our retreat. The proceeds from this event will go to a mission project selected by the District Women's Ministries.

Our silent auction will not be the typical silent auction. We will be having a **"Gift Basket Silent Auction"**. If possible, we would like to have at least one basket from each of our churches on the district. When you say to me "Gift Basket" I immediately think of fruit baskets. Not this time. Let's really think outside the box. I have provided a list of possible baskets. Because of health and food laws we cannot have any homemade or baked goods type of baskets. However, we can have shelf stable prepackaged food items.

We want all sizes of baskets – small, medium, large and a few extra-large. The easiest way to wrap a basket is to use a preformed basket shape "shrink wrap bag". It must say "shrink wrap" on the outside of the package. This is a cellophane shrink wrap bag that you set the basket inside, tie a ribbon around the top, and then use a hair dryer to shrink wrap securely around basket. These come in all sizes from small to extra-large. They are clear or colored transparent wrap. This wrap also comes in rolls of wrap. The best size we have found for our baskets are small, medium or large. I have some baskets, most of them small to medium. I do need the wrap for them. If you can find some in your town let me know – call me 575-937-2860 or email me rdano101@yahoo.com. I believe Hobby Lobby and Michaels have them and so do other craft stores. I am planning on attaching a small card to each basket listing the contents of the basket. This will make it easier for the ladies to decide if they want to bid on a basket.

Ideas for baskets

Kitchen gadgets basket – small gadgets for the kitchen

Bath gift basket – towels, wash cloths, soap and other bath products

Coffee and tea baskets – small packets of coffees, teas, small tea strainer, coffee mugs, etc.

Oil and vinegar basket – a small glass oil and vinegar set with a bottle of good oil and a bottle of good vinegar.

Gardening basket – small gardening tools, seeds and other gardening supplies.

Chocolates basket – A variety of good chocolates, both bars and individual candies.

Spice and seasoning basket – small bottles of spices and seasonings with usage chart.

A collection of cookbooks – especially old and out of print books. Not just new books.

Other books – Be sure all books are in good condition with no pages missing.

Small office and desk supplies – note pads, stapler, pencils, pens, pencil sharpener, etc.

Arts and crafts basket – small art and crafts supplies.

Sewing basket – sewing supplies, needles, scissors, thread, pins, etc.

Baby supplies basket – all kinds of baby supplies.

Video/movies and popcorn basket – Good movies/videos and popcorn packets.

We will close the auction during the dinner hour Saturday night and immediately announce the winning bid. The winner then will be able to pay for and take the basket with her. Everything will be closed by the end of the dinner hour. No late night actions as in past years.

Call me or email me at 575-937-2860 or rdano101@yahoo.com with your information on your basket. I have some baskets but need the shrink wrap and ribbon to finish your basket. Bring your baskets to Armstrong Tabernacle when you arrive at Bonita Park.

Dorothy Rogers, Silent Auction Coordinator