



Church of the Nazarene Centennial Highlights



Out of Many, One – Uniting in Holiness

The spiritual vision of early Nazarenes was derived from John Wesley's doctrinal core: justification by grace through faith, sanctification by grace through faith, entire sanctification, and the witness of the Spirit to God's work in human lives. The Holiness Movement arose in the 1830s to promote these doctrines, but by 1900 the movement had splintered. Committed leaders strove to unite Holiness factions, which would lead to the organization of the Church of the Nazarene.

- Oct. 1907, Assoc of Pentecostal Churches of America and the Church of the Nazarene merged in Chicago, IL, at the First General Assembly.
- April 1908, a congregation organized in Peniel, TX, drew into the Nazarene movement the key officers of the Holiness Assoc of Texas.
- Sept. 1908, Pennsylvania Conf of the Holiness Christian Church united.
- Oct. 1908, the Second General Assembly was held at Pilot Point, TX, the Holiness Church of Christ headquarters. The 'year of uniting' ended with the merger of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene and the Holiness Church of Christ.

Out of One, Many – A Mission to the World

In 1908 there were churches in the US and Canada and organized work in India, Cape Verde, Mexico, and Japan. Work in Africa and China soon followed. As the church grew culturally and linguistically diverse, it committed itself in 1980 to internationalization. Today over 60 percent of Nazarenes and 80 percent of the church's 428 districts are outside the US.

A Century of Discipleship

In those earliest days of the church Nazarenes found acceptance, formed relationships, and heard the salvation message through Sunday School. Today Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International continues to share the gospel and disciple believers at every age, from infant to adult, and through a variety of formats.

A Century of Mission

The Church of the Nazarene has had a focus on missions since its beginning. Today World Mission serves in myriad ways.

- Missionaries serving alongside indigenous Nazarenes across the globe
- Holiness literature in 103 languages
- Compassionate ministries: disaster relief, crisis management, child sponsorship, food and clothing programs, long-term solutions
- Nazarene Mission International (NMI) working through local churches with education, prayer, and giving
- Work and Witness: hands-on, short-term missions
- JESUS Film Harvest Partners: taking the gospel via the unwritten Word with more than 8 million decisions for Christ since 1998

A Century of Education

Education has also been a focus since the early days. Dr. Phineas Bresee, our first general superintendent, said, "Higher education is of such a nature that the church which turns it over to the [government] or others will soon find itself robbed of its inheritance." Today we have 56 colleges, seminaries, and universities in 40 countries. Over 40,000 students are enrolled in residential and extension education programs worldwide. These schools are preparing pastors, missionaries, and laity to make an impact for Christ in their world.

A Century of Publishing

Early church leaders saw the wisdom and value of producing and printing their own books, music, magazines, and curricula to share the message of holiness. Since 1912 faithful workers have been providing literature for the Church of the Nazarene. Today Nazarene Publishing House (NPH) prints more than 25 million pieces of literature each year.

Celebrating Our Core Values

- We are Christian. As members of the Church Universal we join with all true believers in proclaiming the salvation and Lordship of Jesus Christ.
- We are Holiness. We believe that God, who is holy, calls us to a life of holiness. And what He calls, He enables.
- We are Missional. We are a sent people, witnessing to our faith and participating with God in the building of His Church.

Our mission: To make Christlike disciples in the nations.