

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

21 June 2023

## Global Church of the Nazarene



## Alabaster 75th Anniversary Year

Following the end of World War II, in the late 1940s, the Church of the Nazarene was experiencing a need for more missions funding. At a meeting of the Global NMI Council, Elizabeth Venum was asked to find a way that could be used to raise funds for land purchases and building construction needs around the world. As she rode the train home from that council meeting, she said the Lord gave her the details for the Alabaster Offering.

The offering was based on the story of the woman pouring perfume on Jesus from a container carved from soft alabaster stone. Building on that biblical story, Nazarenes were asked to put off buying new perfume for themselves or postpone purchasing something for themselves and to give that money in the Alabaster Offering instead. In much the same way that the woman gave her bottle of perfume to Jesus, we have been called to pour out a lavish offering for others. Alabaster was first promoted using this phrase: "Give up a want to meet a need."

Alabaster, an offering that for 75 years has been a hallmark of Nazarene generosity and sacrifice, was one of the primary emphases in the 24th Global NMI Convention.

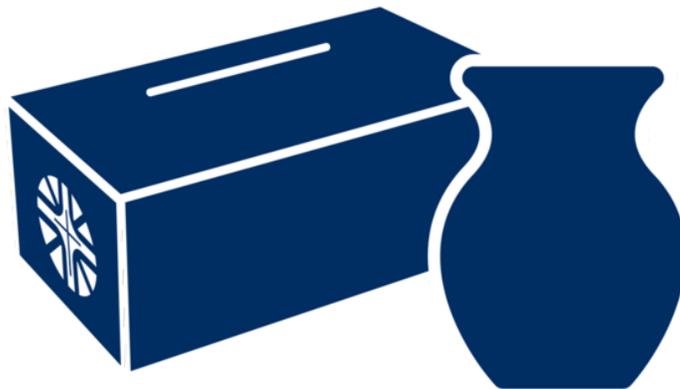
NMI is entering into a yearlong celebration, June 2023 - June 2024, where every church, everywhere, will participate in giving to Alabaster at some time during this anniversary year. To help churches encourage giving, in the third week of NMI Central during this 13-month period, rather than highlighting a country, we will share an Alabaster video. Stories of changed lives, stories of sacrifice, stories of Kingdom impact.

To download a video to introduce the Alabaster 75th Anniversary celebration, click [here](#).



Newly designed children's Alabaster box.

During the convention, a new children's Alabaster box was released; click [here](#) to order. You may also order the latest version of the adult Alabaster box from The Foundry Publishing by clicking [here](#). They are sold in sets of 25 boxes each.



## **PRAYER**

- Pray that the Lord will continue to multiply the generous giving of Nazarenes from across the globe through Alabaster Offerings.
- Pray for a renewed spirit of generosity in every generation to give to Alabaster to provide places where people worship, heal, and learn.



## **PRAISE**

- We praise God for the past 75 years of faithfulness in giving to Alabaster from Nazarenes around the world.
- We praise God for the significant offering given in in the 24th Global NMI Convention “March Offering.”



Lola Brickey and family gave father's and grandfather's Alabaster box offering.

At the close of Global NMI Director Lola Brickey's report to the convention, delegates and guests participated in a traditional "march offering," bringing Alabaster offerings from around the world and giving generously in this historic moment. Several, including the family of Lola Brickey, brought loved ones' filled Alabaster boxes.



Delegates and guests give to Alabaster in the 24th Global NMI Convention "March Offering."

Your faithful giving to the World Evangelism Fund covers the administrative costs associated with Alabaster Offerings, allowing 100% of everything given to be used to provide places where people worship, heal, and learn. As you know, property in urban areas can be very expensive, at times making it impossible for churches, schools, or clinics to own property. Alabaster funds can also be used to help with expenses of renting property for periods of time. Alabaster often makes it possible for the Church of the Nazarene to establish a sense of permanent presence, an indication that we are there to stay and carry out the work of Jesus.

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to participate in His mission? For more information, click [here](#).



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17001 Prairie Star Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

