



Being and Making Disciples in the Cities

Lessons 7-9

MISSIONS EDUCATION LESSONS
2023



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first Missions Education Journal (Part 3) on the Trinidad and Tobago District, authored by our very own local Nazarenes, helping to highlight mission stories within Trinidad and Tobago and on our Region – Mesoamerica.

We will be following a staggered release of lessons every quarter to **help** with your Mission Education Sessions, Mission Moments and Children and Youth Mission Sessions. Each month, the lesson provided will bring focus to the NMI Monthly Emphasis.

The Lessons

Most lessons follow the same format. Using the summary below, familiarize yourself with lesson components and their purposes.

- **Lesson Purpose:** Missions stories are inspiring and more memorable when listeners understand the importance behind them.
- **Scripture:** The verses coordinate with the topic. These are sometimes used within the presentations. If not, please read them to the group. This helps your people associate scripture with missions.
- **Fast Facts:** These statistics about the lesson topic are, at times, worked into the presentation. For those times when they are not, use them to enrich the learning experience.
- **Lesson Information:** This may include an introduction, one or more missions stories, and sometimes additional material on the topic. Use as much of the Lesson Information as time allows.
- **Presentation Ideas:** Three options are presented – each for different age groups, children, youth and adults.
- **ACT ON IT:** These practical ideas for personal involvement pertain to the lesson topic. They are varied and can include prayer, giving, and participating in local or global projects that may turn into long-term ministries for your church.
- **Resources:** This lists websites, videos, books, and additional articles on the lesson topic.

The Theme: Being and Making Disciples in the Cities

The main theme on the Mesoamerica Region over the next four years is "Being and making disciples". The sub-theme our District is using this year is "Being and Making Disciples in the Cities". Research has shown that the cities are the most populated spaces in countries, yet, the presence of the Church of the Nazarene in these areas are little to none. As such, our Region is putting increased attention on evangelism in the cities.

Authors

Our authors for our third group of Mission Lessons are

1. *Carol Garner-Dupigny* - District NMI Children's Coordinator. Carol has served in NMI for a number of years and served as the Youth representative on the District NMI Council many years ago. She is a member of the Five Rivers Church of the Nazarene.
2. *Janice Bastaldo* - District NMI Secretary and former local NMI President. Janice is a member of the Arima Church of the Nazarene and is a pre-school principal.
3. *Leonard Grant* - Former District NMI President, former District NMI Vice-President, former Work and Witness Coordinator and many more roles in NMI. Leonard "Lenny" Grant is a member of the Tunapuna Church of the Nazarene.

I wish to thank all those who have come on board to write these lessons as well as those who are working behind the scene. Thank you to every member of the District NMI Council and to our editor, Rev. Donnemie Ali. We are still looking for persons to help with the lessons for the rest of the year as we seek to highlight the stories of those amongst us and those nearby. Feel free to reach out to us with your comments, suggestions and to volunteer to write a lesson. We hope that this material answers a need for resources for teaching about missions in our churches. God bless you.

Leigh Hope

District NMI President

LESSON 7

Timmeon Spencer: Young Man on a Mission

Lesson Prepared By: Carol Garner-Dupigny

Timmeon Spencer: Young Man on a Mission

July Emphasis – Children and Youth

LESSON PURPOSE:

- To encourage our children and youths to become involved in Missions.
- To help them understand the call of God on their lives and encourage them to develop their gifts and talents to serve the Lord in order to make Christlike disciples.

SCRIPTURE (CHILDREN):

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.'

- Mark 10:13-15

SCRIPTURE (YOUTH & ADULTS):

Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. 5 Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

- James 3:4-5

FAST FACTS:

1. Guyana means Land of many waters.
2. Guyana is the only country in South America in which its official language is English.
3. Leading Religions are Hinduism and Christianity, predominantly Roman Catholicism.
4. Guyana is home to World Famous Kaieteur waterfalls – The World's largest single drop of 22km high and 100m wide.
5. Three main Ethnic groups in Guyana are East Indian, African, and Amerindian.

LESSON INFORMATION

Timmeon Spencer - Young man on a Mission

Today we introduce to you a dynamic and Spirit-filled young man whose name is Min. Timmeon Spencer.

Min. Timmeon Spencer hails from the beautiful country of Guyana, which is situated in South America, a part of Caribbean, bordering the North Atlantic Ocean. It lies between Suriname and Venezuela. Its longest river is the Essequibo River and the world's largest single-drop waterfall, the Kaieteur Falls, is located here. Guyana is the only country in South America where English is the official language spoken. Its natural resources are; Gold, Bauxite, and Diamonds to name a few. It has a population of just over eight hundred thousand and is known as "The Land of many waters." Cricket is the most popular sport.

Timmeon was born in Newtown Kitty, a village in the capital city of Georgetown, Guyana. He is the last of six children, born to the parents Floyd and Jennifer Spencer. Growing up with five older siblings, Timmeon says and I quote, "I was always treated as the baby, everyone was helpful and supportive. But by no means, it meant that I was spoiled. It came with its pressures. Everyone had high expectations of everything I did and was also most disappointed if I underperformed. Thankfully, this only pushed me to be the best version of myself growing up," he said. His parents, especially his mother, would insist that they attend Sunday School and other activities at church. That included the Vacation Bible School every year. There were no ifs or buts about it. They had to go.

These activities had a great impact on his young mind, as a child growing up. Experiencing the love of God and learning about God's word, Timmeon decided at the tender age of five years old, to accept Jesus Christ into his life, to be his Lord and savior.

This marked the start, or maybe we should say, the continuing of a journey of wonder and excitement in his young life. He continued to be involved in the evangelistic work of the church he attended, which was the Queenstown church of the Nazarene. Timmeon would be present to go out on a Sunday afternoon, to minister to the lost in the community, with his other brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing his faith and giving out tracts.



Then at the age of twelve years old, Timmeon made the decision to be baptized, showing his full commitment to the Lord. Whatever God's will for his life would be, Timmeon was God's young man.

As a youth growing up and being involved in church activities, God's call would soon come to Timmeon. He always considered "Missions", to be an activity that adults and older people would be involved in, so he never considered the call to Missions as an area that he would be interested in.

As it happened in 2017, an opportunity came his way to go on a mission trip to Jamaica. At that time the then "Global Missions", and now "Missions Mobilization" encouraged the youths to participate in mission trips to share their faith and to reach the brokenness of the youths, children, and adults in communities, even with compassionate help from the participants.

Rev. Paul Bunsee from Trinidad and Tobago would encourage Timmeon on this trip. He became a trusted friend and mentor to him. Rev. Bunsee's teaching and mentoring would have a lasting and valuable impact on Timmeon's life. In 2018, Timmeon surrendered to God by saying yes to the call to be more prepared for ministry. He said yes to God, and prepared to attend Bible College in Trinidad and Tobago. Then in 2019, he made the move from Guyana to Trinidad to attend the Caribbean Nazarene College. Timmeon would graduate College in 2023 with his B.A. degree in Theology.

While in Trinidad, Timmeon's ministry activities would flourish, even as a student of C.N.C. He joined the Nazarene Youth International (N.Y.I.), in Trinidad and Tobago and quickly became a vibrant and enthusiastic member. He was given the responsibility by the District N.Y.I, to be their "BE" Co-ordinator. He would lead the youths to an evangelistic and missional experience that would be, as he puts it "contagious". They would be lights shining in the darkness.

He also joined up with the District Nazarene Missions International (N.M.I), with President Sis Leigh Hope for some activities. The relationship between him and Sis. Leigh and the District N.M.I. would grow and become one of partnership and blessing.

Timmeon participated in a venture entitled "Jeopardy Mission Edition"; in 2022 as a cohost. This occasion was spearheaded by the District N.M.I. and Children's Quiz coming together for a wonderful time of fun and fellowship. Quizzing about all things concerning "Missions". He was also the featured speaker for a District N.M.I event entitled "Play and Witness". He worked alongside the Global Missions Co. Sis. Deanedra Francis, District N.Y.I and the District N.M.I Council. Many children, youths, and their parents were ministered to that day while enjoying the sports and fun activities.

Timmeon answered God's call and was appointed Global Missions Coordinator for the Caribbean Field in 2020. His unwavering passion to mobilize youths and adults for mission activities and leading mission trips can only be described as Spirit led and on fire. He is passionate about encouraging children, and youths to participate in Mission Events and activities. He is continually speaking, teaching, and educating on Missions. He believes the church should encourage and nurture the Call on our children and youth for missions.

Min. Timmeon Spencer is a licensed minister in the Guyana District in the Queenstown Church of the Nazarene where he serves. He is a young man on a mission for his Lord, his country, his region, and the World.

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Children

1. Introduce a picture of the "Grasshopper Mouse". The small rodent is quite dangerous for a creature its size. It eats grasshoppers, worms, spiders, and even centipedes, scorpions, and snakes. Your size and age are no reason to say God cannot use you, or that you are too young to do mission work. Take a look at this small creature that God made. He can use children to touch the world with his love.
2. Share the story of Timmeon Spencer via puppetry or powerpoint presentation. Use maps to highlight Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.
3. Let the children know how special they are to God and that he wants to use them as well. Emphasize this with the scripture (Mark 10:13-15)
4. Do a question and answer "Quiz" segment.

Youth & Adults

1. Inquire before if any of them have gone on Mission trips or taken part in any Mission events. Have one or two youths or adults share their experience.
2. Show a picture of a boat with a rudder attached. A large boat such as a cruise ship is preferred. Ask the question: What part of the ship causes it to turn; when the captain takes the helm (turns the wheel)? Do you know? Answer: The Rudder. It is a small part compared to the ship but it causes the large ship to turn. They can cause the lives of others, their families, and friends to turn to God as they engage in missions for God. (James 3:4)
3. Share Timmeon's video (<https://youtu.be/4YRxLKnuFn8>) or invite Timmeon to share his story virtually
4. Invite someone from another church who has been to Mission events to share. This also helps our congregation get to know their District leaders. Engage them for information, experiences, and encouragement.

ACT ON IT

1. Prayer - For our Minister Timmeon Spencer, For the children and youths of our communities as they face life's everyday challenges.
2. Giving - Give toward their Local N.M.I. and Compassionate Ministries, e.g., Food and Clothing drives.
3. Involving - Become a member of your Local Church Prayer Ministry, take part in C.C.O (Cross-Cultural Orientation) training
4. Doing - Do Mission events with your church, e.g., Maximum Missions, engage the District N.M.I. Council for presentations (Helps to know who your Council members are), take part in the District N.M.I. Back to School Compassionate Giving for children and youths. Give school supplies, clothes, textbooks, etc.

RESOURCES

1. Video: Min. Timmeon Spencer (Channel: NMI T&T)
2. YouTube - Jeopardy (Missions Edition) (Channel: NMI T&T)
3. YouTube - Missions Possible Competition (Channel: NMI T&T)
4. Play & Witness - Google "Missions Mobilization Mesoamerica"

LESSON 8

Work and Witness in Trinidad & Tobago

Lesson Prepared By: Janice Bastaldo

Work and Witness in Trinidad and Tobago

August Emphasis - Mobilization: The Church Sending

LESSON PURPOSE:

1.To bring awareness of our Work and Witness Team (Trinidad and Tobago District), and the work they have been doing through the years.

SCRIPTURE:

Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the Lord came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth.

(1 Samuel 3:9-10)

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

(John 20:21)

FAST FACTS:

- 1.Work & Witness (W&W) is a ministry that has changed the face of missions in the Church of the Nazarene.
- 2.Churches from many different nations participate in sending and receiving Work & Witness teams each year.
- 3.This year, the Church of the Nazarene celebrates 50 years of Work & Witness ministry.
- 4.To date forty-three (43) persons from the Trinidad and Tobago District have participated in at least one (1) Regional W&W trip.
- 5.The W&W team comprises of volunteers from Trinidad and Tobago; pastors, laymen and women who give of their time, talent and resources to assist in the physical projects within the country and the Caribbean.



HAITI WORK & WITNESS TEAMS COMPOSITION

Year	Size of Team	Male	Female	Pastors	Youth
2010	4	4	0	1	0
2011	11	11	0	1	3
2012	15	11	4	1	4

GUYANA WORK & WITNESS TEAMS COMPOSITION

Year	Size of Team	Male	Female	Pastors	Youth
2014	18	11	7	5	3
2015	31	20	11	6	7
2017	20	12	8	4	3

DOMINICA WORK & WITNESS TEAMS COMPOSITION

Year	Size of Team	Male	Female	Pastors	Youth
2018	12	10	2	2	0
2019	11	7	4	3	1



Team Guyana



Team Haiti

LESSON INFORMATION:

Work and Witness is an opportunity to participate in a short term mission trip to assist a church or community via construction work and evangelizing in the community. A work and witness team focuses on worship, witness and work on their mission trips- working on churches and other buildings while witnessing to the communities through VBS, crusades etc.

The Trinidad and Tobago District Work and Witness Team has been in existence since 2010. Some of the core members of the team over the years are; Leonard Grant aka Bro. Lenny, Rev. Victor George, Gerard Francis, Courtney Greene, Nicholas De Sormeaux, John Gibson and Revs. Farouk and Vilma Mohammed.

The beginning years

In the early years, our District's Work and Witness Team partnered with other Work and Witness teams to complete work in other countries. Responding to the call for help after a devastating earthquake struck Haiti in January 2010, the team made its first trip to Haiti in an effort to provide relief to the Haitians. This first account is recorded as the installation of the roof and building of benches at the **Ballenger Church, Haiti (2010)**. In this instance, the team partnered with the Washington District's Work and Witness Team. This work in Haiti continued during the years 2011/2012 with work being done at the seminary and construction of the roof at **Virgile (2011)** followed by construction of another roof, painting the building and reconstruction of the cook's home in **Boutin (2012)**. A look at the video below highlights the experiences of those who went on those trips.

Video Insert: <https://youtu.be/dQspgqHsY50>

Birth of Work and Witness T&T

Out of these trips came the birthing of the Trinidad and Tobago District W&W team. This initiative was birthed under the directorship of D.S. Rev. Victor E. George and leadership of Bro. Leonard Grant. Projects were reviewed and the possibility of work in Guyana became a reality in 2014, 2015, and 2017.

Eighteen (18) members from T&T embarked on the first trip to complete work on the **Tuschen** church—installing windows, doors, and flooring the facility by day, while conducting outreach ministry in the evenings at both **Tuschen and De Willem churches**. This project continued the following year with the construction of a stairway, roof-slabs in the bathroom area and casting a portion of the walkway. Here, ministry was conducted through VBS.

2017 led the team to back to Guyana where construction works were carried out at the **District Centre and at Number 65 Church**. They also ministered through the VBS, functioning as voluntary teachers and ministering at the “Deeper Life” services and on Sunday mornings at four (4) churches namely; Bush Lot, New Amsterdam, Fryish and Rosehall.

Continuing the call

2018 led the team to Dominica with a delegation of twelve (12) persons. Together with members of the **Pichelin COTN** they were able to reconstruct the roof of the sanctuary from ring-beam to ridging, completing with the installation on metal sheeting. The following year (2019), the W&W Trinidad and Tobago, in collaboration with a Team from the Barbados District and guided by Bro. Stanley Arthur, completed the work at Pichelin. This comprised of the installation of the ceiling, doors, windows, and plumbing fixtures. Tiling of the walls, floor and painting of the building completed the project.

The Covid-19 Pandemic closed off all projects and the team is once again embarking on another trip to Dominica in August 2023.

Work and witness trips are planned during the school break- July/August and volunteers are always welcome to join the team. Team members are such sacrificial, cheerful givers who pay for their airfare/accommodation and still contribute financially to the mission/work. Funds received from team members, via offerings, donations and fundraisers are used for the purchasing of building materials and supplies.

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Children

- 1.Object Lesson: Jenga Set – Set up a Jenga Set like a tower. Allow a couple children to pull jenga blocks from the bottom. When the tower falls, explain how earthquakes cause buildings to fall just like the jenga blocks fell.
- 2.Help the children understand that the Caribbean Islands go through many natural disasters like earthquakes and hurricanes and that many countries suffer loss of lives and loss of homes and buildings.
- 3.Let them share on how they think persons living on those islands feel and why, following a natural disaster.
- 4.Show the first few minutes of the Work and Witness Video on Rebuilding Haiti.
- 5.Let them know what the Church of the Nazarene did through Work and Witness to provide relief.
- 6.Find out if they would want to help persons who have been affected by natural disasters in that way.

Youth / Adults

- 1.Start the discussion with talking about earthquakes and how they occur. The same jenga object lessons can be used.
- 2.Talk about the Haiti 2010 earthquake and how lives were affected.
- 3.Show the Haiti video clip.
- 4.Discuss their feelings after viewing the clip. What stood out to them? Do they think they will be willing to go do that work.
- 5.Invite a member of the District Work and Witness Team to share at your youth meeting.
- 6.Play some Jenga!

ACT ON IT!

- 1.Pray for those less fortunate than yourselves, for the continued work of the W&W Team, that God would speak clearly to you on where He is sending you.
- 2.Select a project that you can contribute to- building/purchasing something, repairing a door for an elderly person etc and pick up an offering for that specific goal. You can also raise funds for the District W&W Team.
- 3.And finally GO!

RESOURCES:

1. <https://nazarene.org/who-we-are/organisation/ministries/nazarene-missions-international/nmi-resources/nmi-send-me-resources>
2. Work and Witness: Episode 1-The History of Work and Witness in Trinidad and Tobago (YouTube Channel: NMI T&T)
3. Nazarene Work & Witness Facebook



Haiti



Haiti



Guyana



Guyana



Dominica

LESSON 9

The Alabaster Story in T&T

Lesson Prepared By: Leonard Grant

The Alabaster Story in Trinidad and Tobago

September Emphasis - Alabaster

LESSON PURPOSE:

1. To understand the importance of giving to Alabaster.
2. To see how the Alabaster Offering has helped churches in Trinidad and Tobago

SCRIPTURE:

While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

(Mark 14:3)

FAST FACTS:



In the late 1940's, the Church of the Nazarene was experiencing a crunch in mission funding.

In 1948, Rev. Mary Elizabeth Venum, Global Council member, was asked to think and pray about a challenging project for the Nazarene World Missions Society NWMS (now NMI) Council. Rev. Venum knew if God wanted the project to take place, He would provide the plan. On her return trip from Kansas City, God gave her His plan of giving "love" gifts. It was modelled after the sacrifice of the woman who anointed Jesus' head with expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar (Matthew 26: 6-13).

At the Global NMI Council meeting in 1949, Mrs. Venum told of the Alabaster plan God had given her. The Council unanimously adopted the plan, and the first offering was received in 1949.

The Board of General Superintendents approved the plan for Alabaster funds to be used exclusively for buildings and properties in cross-cultural ministries. This love offering provides funds for purchasing property and constructing buildings around the world for the Church of the Nazarene. Buildings include churches, schools, medical facilities, and homes for missionaries and national workers.

LESSON INFORMATION

Trinidad and Tobago is no stranger to the receipt of Alabaster funds. Here are some of our stories.

ALABASTER STORIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



St. James Church of the Nazarene

From 1926 to 1940 the Nazarene congregation at St. James gathered for worship in rented properties. Over the ensuing years, the members began to express the need to construct their own church building. The project received a generous contribution from the then General Missionary Society President, Susan Fitkin, and several persons, near and far. From the funds received, James Ivy Hill, the first American Missionary to Trinidad, purchased the property located at the corner of Mooneram and Angelina Streets, St. James. In 1940 the dream was eventually realized when the St. James Church of the Nazarene was completed and dedicated. This was prior to the official launch of the Alabaster Plan; however, it must be noted that the principle existed way before the conception of the name.



Tunapuna Church of the Nazarene

The congregation in Tunapuna, like that of St. James, gathered for worship in at least two different locations before finally settling in at its present location. In 1937, Carlotta Graham while on furlough in the United States of America, highlighted the need for a sanctuary at Tunapuna. Through those efforts, she was able to raise the money to purchase a parcel of land on Lashley Street, Tunapuna. However, it took almost four years and much more pleading for finances before the sanctuary was constructed. At the 1940 General Assembly, the construction needs of the Tunapuna congregation were highlighted and Dr. and Mrs. Haldor Lillenas, writers and publishers of gospel music gave a substantial contribution toward the project. In 1941, the first Tunapuna sanctuary was completed and dedicated.



Point Fortin Church of the Nazarene

The Point Fortin sanctuary, unlike the St. James and Tunapuna churches, was constructed before the congregation received organization status. This was due mainly through the generous and sacrificial of Nazarenes around the world through Alabaster Offering. Mrs Louise Chapman, General President of Nazarene World Foreign Missions Society (NWFMS) was instrumental in the allocation the funds to build the Point Fortin Church of the Nazarene. In 1956, the first Point Fortin sanctuary was completed and dedicated.



Canaan Church of the Nazarene

Acquiring land and adverse weather conditions were two major challenges that the Church of the Nazarene encountered in establishing the ministry in Tobago. As a result, it took over ten years for the congregation to obtain money to purchase land for the construction of the church building. A significant portion of the money for the land and the construction of the sanctuary came from the petitioning of American Missionaries Mary Scott and Helen Temple. The building of a suitable structure begun in 1972 and was completed and dedicated in 1974.



Bethany Church of the Nazarene

This congregation faced the same problems the Canaan congregation encountered however, in 1997 they received funding from the District, the Canaan Church and other sources to purchase the land that they currently occupied. A temporary structure was built to gather for worship, however, it survived for just a few years. In 2004, the temporary structure was deemed uncomfortable, and it was demolished. The projected cost for the construction of a suitable structure was way above the means of the congregation. However, as fate would have it an adverse weather event generated an outpouring of financial support from many sources including Alabaster Offering funding.

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Children

1. Place the children into groups. Give each group some building blocks, enough to build a house / building. Ask them to build a church.
2. Share that each block has a cost and in the Church of the Nazarene, we collect money to help other churches to purchase blocks and other material so they can have a church building, like the one they are in!
3. Tell them about the Alabaster Offering.

- Share a couple stories of the churches in Trinidad and Tobago that have benefitted from the Alabaster Offering. Be sure to mention that persons all across the world gave so that our churches in Trinidad and Tobago could be built.
- Tell them it comes from the Alabaster Bible Story. Share the story to show how the woman gave her best.
- Craft: Decorate your Alabaster box – purchase boxes, paper the boxes and make an opening for coins/dollar bills at the top (like a piggy bank). Give the children craft materials to decorate their box. Challenge them to put money in the box, for at least the equivalent of 1 block/brick and to bring it to your church's Alabaster Service.

Youth / Adults

1. Place the youths/adults into groups. Challenge them to build a church using cardboard and other craft items. Choose a winner!
2. Share about the Alabaster Fund.
3. Discuss the importance of having a church building. Look at the story of the Bethany Church of the Nazarene and how the building is a safe space for people to gather, especially in adverse weather.
4. Talk about the different ways having a meeting place impacts or can impact your community. Share the stories. Discuss whether any of these churches have impacted your lives. Maybe you have a friend there or you visited the church once and was blessed.
5. Share the Alabaster scripture and then remind youths/adults that the intention that Mrs. Vennum had was the giving of a love gift.
6. Encourage them to give to Alabaster.

ACT ON IT:

1. Plan an Alabaster service. Invite a special speaker.
2. Promote the Alabaster Offering in your local church.
3. Consider how much you want to give.
4. Give!

RESOURCES:

<https://nazarene.org/alabaster>