



Being and Making Disciples in the Cities

Lessons 1-3

MISSIONS EDUCATION LESSONS
2023



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the first Missions Education Journal 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 first three Mission Lessons are

1. *Selina Dass* - District NMI Vice-President and Zonal Coordinator for the South and East Zones, former local NMI President. Selina is a member of the Sangre Grande Church of the Nazarene and is a primary school teacher.
2. *Rev. Donnamie Ali* - Caribbean Field NMI Coordinator, former Caribbean Field NMI Representative on the Global Council, former District NMI President, local NMI President, Editor of this Education Journal and so much more. Rev. Ali fellowships at the San Fernando Church of the Nazarene. She is a former secondary school teacher and current lecturer at Caribbean Nazarene College.
3. *Shannon Rampersad* - District NMI Education Coordinator, currently serving local NMI President. Shannon is a member of the Dow Village Nazarene Victory Chapel. She is a retinal photographer by profession.

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 2022. 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 1

Reaching the Cities through Genesis

Lesson Prepared By: Selina Dass

Reaching the Cities through Genesis

January Emphasis - Volunteer Ministries

LESSON PURPOSE:

To bring an awareness of the Genesis Initiative and the work being done in our region, mainly in the urban areas.

SCRIPTURE:

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

-Matthew 28:19-20

Genesis Logo



FAST FACTS:

General statistics show that 72% of Mesoamerica live in an urban area.

In just two years we have grown from 169 cities with 100,000 people or more to 182.

Of these 182 metropolises, 115 are in one country: Mexico. One. One. Five. Reaching the cities of our region means especially reaching the cities of Mexico, many of which have no Nazarene church.

A significant number of these 182 cities have recently been affected adversely by devastating natural disasters.

Trinidad and Tobago sent a Genesis missionary in the person of Minister Crystalla Williams to serve from 2016-2018. She spent those 2 years in Grenada.

LESSON INFORMATION

Scott and Emily serve as missionaries on the Church of the Nazarene Mesoamerica Region along with their children Elijah and Sydney. Scott and Emily are coordinating the ministries of Mesoamerica Global Mission and Mesoamerica Genesis, helping people discern God's call to missions. They host a bilingual podcast to help educate on urban realities and missional topics.

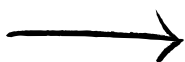
Mesoamerica Genesis

Mesoamerica Genesis is an initiative that builds on the trend of urban globalization. Urban globalization is the movement of people leaving rural areas and entering the city for reasons such as economic growth, educational opportunities and modern conveniences. Statistics show that over 50% of the world's population live in a city of 100,000 people or more, and that number is estimated to skyrocket to 70% by 2050. Sadly, the Church of the Nazarene on the Mesoamerica Region has little to no church presence in the biggest cities of the region!

Scott and Emily Armstrong had a vision for the Genesis initiative in order for the church to be a hope-bringing, life-giving, holiness-preaching presence in the highest population areas of our region. The hope is to establish active congregations in the city that are doing something new.

Over the past few years, they have deployed a number of Genesis Missionaries to serve on 2-year assignments in the cities of our Region. Here are testimonies from the teams in Guatemala and Mexico.

Click here to learn
about the
Armstrongs and
their mission



Creativity in a pandemic - Quetzaltenango, Guatemala

Teresa De Cuesta (from Mexico), Diana González (from El Salvador), Oscar Quej (from Guatemala) and Elba Duson (from Dominican Republic) were four Genesis missionaries deployed to a city in Guatemala called Quetzaltenango in late 2019. However, just five months into their ministry, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Within a short time, their movements and their contact with people became limited. They faced a challenge. How can they reach out to people in the city with the love and message they had come so eagerly to share?



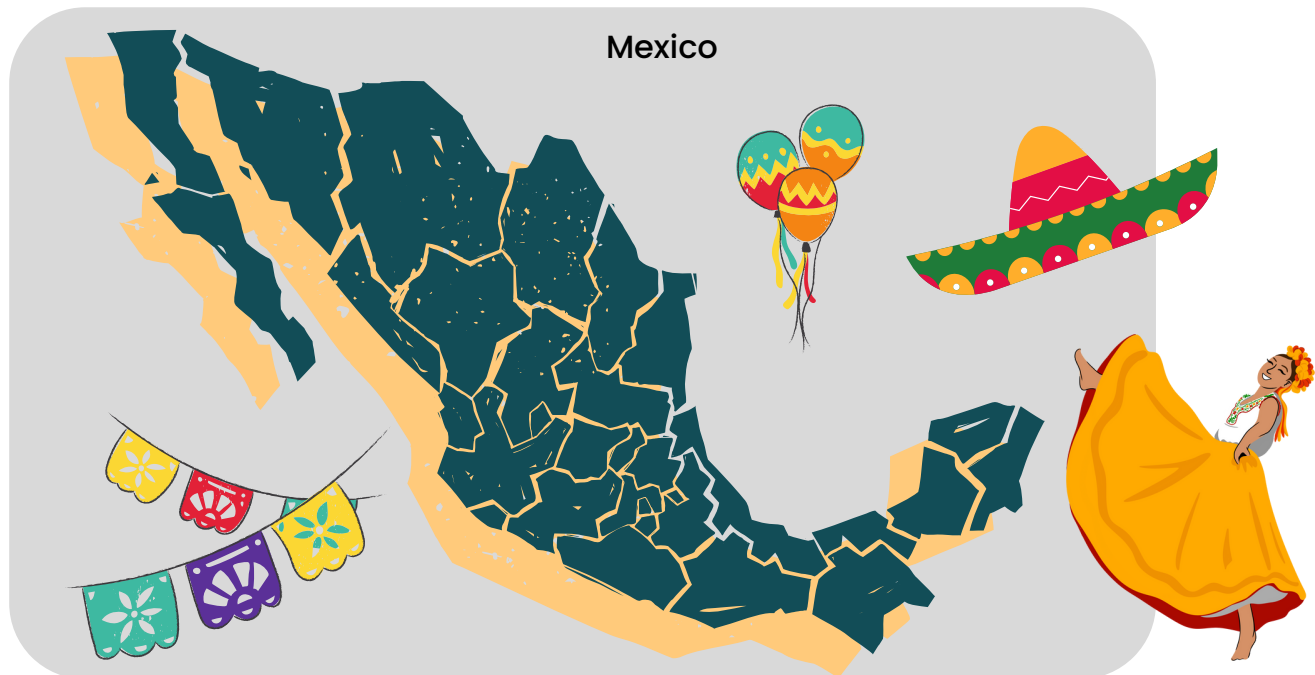
They had an event planned for April 2020, however, this could not take place. So much planning and preparation went into it. They had ordered 50 helium balloons for this event, but did not get them, could not use them even and did not ask for a refund. Sometime later, as they were brainstorming for ideas to reach out, they remembered the balloons and came up with a creative way to tell people about God. They took the balloons out into the community. This caught people's attention and people started to engage them to find out what that was all about. They were able to encourage people to write a prayer request, tie it to a balloon and send it up to God. God opened doors for the missionaries to have spiritual conversations with the community.

One of the spaces that remained open during the pandemic was the market. The missionaries befriended a saleswoman who owned a little store and allowed them to set up a prayer box with pens and paper at her store. After the first week, the box was empty. After the second week, there was only one prayer request. They followed up with this person, Orlando, who needed healing and was going through other situations. He became their friend. As the weeks progressed, the number of prayer requests increased. The four missionaries continued to pray and reach out to those who requested prayer. Some of these persons have become members of the church.

Working with children - Monterrey, Mexico

Andrea and Daniel (Danny) Santiago (from Mexico) were deployed to the city of Monterrey, Mexico. During the pandemic, they did a lot of work with children. They would have sessions with them to teach about Christ. They would witness children coming to them from abusive homes, with bruises and limps. It broke their hearts. They continued to love and help these children as much as they could and prayed for their salvation and that of their families. As time went along, they started to see transformation.

10 year old Andrea (yes, she has the same name as the missionary) was sent to the sessions by her parents. One day, they were learning the scripture, Psalm 34:7. Andrea asked the missionaries to write the scripture for her on paper "The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him and he delivers them." She took the paper home. At that time, her brother was very sick. He could not leave the house. The family did not know what to do. They thought it was their last days with him. The elder of the house started looking for a solution. Knowing that they were sending Andrea to church, they called on her for a prayer. Andrea pulled out the paper with the Bible verse and the family started repeating the scripture Psalm 34:7 as a prayer. They started claiming God's word and did not even know what they were really doing. The next day, her brother was healed and he testified that he felt God's presence in the room! To God be the glory!



PRESENTATION IDEAS

Children

1. Dramatize the missionary stories shared.
2. Object Lesson: Pick five or more children to line up facing you. Make up a simple handshake and teach it to the first person in line. Once he/she knows it, he/she should teach it to the next person. The next person then teaches it to the next person and so on down the line. Try several different handshakes and see if they can be transmitted all the way down the line.
3. Talk about Matthew 28:19-20 (The Great Commission). Talk about our responsibility to teach others about Christ that all will know Him. (Refer to the object lesson)
4. Discuss how these missionaries are being obedient to it and identify what happened because they obeyed the Commission to go.

Youth

1. Object Lesson: Two teams. A set of dominoes and markers each. Have the youths draw persons on the back of the dominoes with markers. Then set the dominoes on a flat surface, each domino standing uprightly and positioned to create the "domino effect". Be as creative as you like with the dominoes. The team with the more creative and best functioning "domino effect" wins. This shows how one person can make a difference in the Kingdom and influence others.
2. Share the stories through monologues or drama and discuss how the missionaries were able to make a difference. Alternatively, listen to the podcast - [Worthless Servants - Genesis Re-Entry](#).
3. Get a map. Find where Quetzaltenango and Monterrey are. See how far the missionaries traveled from to be there.
4. Introspection: Is God calling you to be a Genesis Missionary – to share His love in the cities?

Adults

1. Discuss the main scripture. What does it mean to "Go and make disciples"?
2. Discuss how disciples can be made in the cities.
3. Dramatize the missionary stories shared. Discuss what stood out to you.
4. Get a map. Find where Quetzaltenango and Monterrey are. See how far the missionaries traveled from to be there.

ACT ON IT

- 1.Promote the Genesis Initiative in your local church – Look at the places where the volunteers are being sent.
- 2.Promote the Special Offering of GENESIS during the month of January. The goal is to raise \$7TT DOLLARS per member in each local church to support the training and other resources needed for the missionaries who are sent to the Genesis sites.
- 3.Continue to pray, give and go to impact the urban areas in your country and abroad.
- 4.Pray for the Armstrong family as they work with children, youth, and young adults helping them discern God’s call to ministry.
- 5.Pray for the Genesis Missionaries currently serving
- 6.Pray that those who sense God’s call to serve in this area will say yes!

RESOURCES:

- 1.<https://www.dnmitt.com/copy-of-children-youth>
- 2.<https://www.mesoamericagenesis.org/home>
- 3.<https://www.mesoamericaregion.org/en/fields/caribbean-field/>
- 4.<https://ksnazarene.org/nmi#nmi-home>
- 5.<https://www.mesoamericagenesis.org/podcast/2021/12/23/122-genesis-reentry>

LESSON 2

Becoming a Disciple and Discipling Others

Lesson Prepared By: Rev. Donnamie Ali

Becoming a Disciple and Discipling Others

February Emphasis - Local Missions

LESSON PURPOSE:

To help persons understand what being a disciple means and encourage them to become involved in discipling others in urban areas.

SCRIPTURE:

“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” At once they left their nets and followed him.’

-Matthew 4:19-20

FAST FACTS:

Rev. Earl Sampson pastors the Nazarene Holiness Centre in East Trinidad on the Trinidad and Tobago District/Mesoamerica Region. This church began as a New Start which he pioneered and which subsequently became a fully organized church in 2012.

He currently serves on the District Advisory Board, is the Chairman of the district’s NCM, and also serves as the East Zone Superintendent.

He is married to Mary and has 5 adult children and 10 grandchildren.

LESSON INFORMATION

Introduction

Explain the verse of Scripture (Matt.4:19-20) and what being a disciple and discipling others really means.

The Disciple

Rev. Earl Sampson grew up with religious parents and was baptized at age 15. As is the case with many who choose to follow God’s way in their youth, he struggled with maintaining “a positive and healthy relationship with God”. He continued with life going on to the normal things like establishing a career and getting married. Thankfully he realized that he was making some very bad decisions that affected his family life and as he said he “began a journey of trying to be a good person/husband that lasted for 15 years”.

It was at the suggestion of his wife Mary, that he decided to make that fateful journey to the Arima COTN, which was at the time pastored by former District Superintendent, Rev. Victor George. His desire for change was so serious that he asked God to let the pastor of the church speak words that indicated he was finally about to be delivered. Well, that morning, the Holy Spirit of God influenced Rev. George to speak on "The Transforming Power of God". That was the call he needed and he confessed to crying during the entire sermon! It was from that moment that Rev. Sampson truly became a disciple of Jesus Christ and he acknowledges that Rev. George intentionally mentored/disciplined him.

Rev. Sampson also grew under the ministry of Rev. Tyrone Goddard. He credits both these men with being intentional in their mentoring of his fully surrendered life. They allowed him to lead ministries according to the gifts they saw in him and allowed him to preach at times.

The Discipled

When one has been effectively disciplined, they almost always go on to disciple others. Rev. Sampson is no exception. God speaks into our spirits but sometimes the call is unclear or we are not in the place He wants us to be. When He first spoke to Rev. Sampson he was actually in another church fellowship but God had work for him to do within the Church of the Nazarene and so the actual laying on of hands occurred under Rev. George who clearly told him that he had seen "the Hand of God" upon him and "there was a definite call to ministry".

Nazarene Holiness Center, where Rev. Sampson pastors, is a daughter church of the Arima Church of the Nazarene. Because Revs. George and Goddard helped him along the way, Rev. Sampson is now well prepared to disciple others. His studies at CNC were also instrumental in his preparation. Let's listen to these words:

"Making Christ-like Disciples who are also capable of making Disciples is who we are as a Church. I have embraced this principle and as a result of the intentional and caring discipleship I received, I have placed high value on the young men and women who sit under my leadership. Two have become District licensed Ministers. One has completed a full course of study at CNC, whilst the other is enrolled and will graduate next year with a Certificate in Theology and Ministerial Studies.

*Two others are engaged in LLP classes and are being nurtured and mentored. They are now being considered for their Local Licenses. Even before becoming Licensed Ministers, they were offered opportunities regularly to preach on Sundays, teach bible Study Lessons, as well as accompany me when I conduct funerals, weddings and other community activities. I am proud of their progress. It will serve the District and Church well in the future. I have brought them alongside me as co-laborers in the Ministry.
(Rev. Earl Sampson)*

Rev. Sampson has had to face many challenges, as all people in ministry do. Thankfully his wife has been “a pillar of strength”, walking alongside him in this service as unto the Lord. A layman becoming a pastor later in life has peculiar difficulties that only others in the same position will truly understand. However, through it all, and even amidst the church’s ministry to the very poor, he has experienced God’s grace that has proven sufficient. In his own words, “May Jehovah get all the glory.”

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Children

1. Get some fishing equipment. e.g. rod, bait, net etc. Begin by holding these up one at a time and discussing their role in the process of fishing.
2. Share the story briefly of Jesus calling his disciples to be “Fishers of men”.
3. Talk about what that means.
4. Share the story of Rev. Sampson via role play or a puppet show.

Youth

1. Invite three persons to share about their job/career and allow youths the opportunity to identify what each person’s job is.
2. Talk about a fisherman and his job – preparation, on the job, outcome and relate it to “being and making disciples”.
3. Share the Mission Story of Rev. Sampson being a disciple who makes disciples via role play or invite Rev. Sampson to share with your youth group.

Adult

1. Choose someone with excellent diction to read the story.
2. Set up the lesson as an interview and have two persons play Rev. Sampson and the interviewer respectively.
3. Invite Rev. Sampson to come and actually tell his story in person or arrange a Zoom Meeting for this and invite the entire church.

Story Discussion

1. In what way/s does this story impact you? How did you feel as you were listening to it?
2. What is the connection between Matthew 4:19-20, and our story?
3. Why is discipling necessary for Christians?
4. Who can disciple others?
5. Think about the person/s who discipled you. What methods did he/she/they use?

ACT ON IT

PRAYER

1. Thank God for the ministry of pastors and leaders who intentionally seek to mentor others.
2. Pray for Rev. Earl Sampson, his family and congregation.
3. Pray that the ministry of Nazarene Holiness Center will, with the help of the Holy Spirit of God, be effective in winning many people to a life of service to Jesus Christ.
4. Pray that intentional discipleship will continue in this church and others as we seek to disciple all who experience the call of God on their lives.
5. Pray for yourself and your church to become intentional in discipleship.

RESOURCES

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tF-JXeom84>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIFOjJw7LjY>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MFuUQJ-bV5c>
4. <https://www.mesoamericaregion.org/en/resources-jog/>



LESSON 3

Danielle Miller – The Girl from the Pine

Lesson Prepared By: Shannon Rampersad

Danielle Miller – The Girl From the Pine

March Emphasis – Mobilization – The Call

LESSON PURPOSE:

- 1.To understand what the Call of God is and who God calls
- 2.To inspire persons to say Yes to God’s call to go (local / abroad) and to be committed to the Great Commission

SCRIPTURE:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

–Isaiah 6:8



Danielle Miller

FAST FACTS:

In the Caribbean, we currently have two young persons serving as global missionaries – Carlos Gordon and Danielle Miller.

Tobagonian, Crystalla Williams, served two years as a Genesis missionary from 2016–2017, along with Guyanese Cleon Cadogan.

Pine Hill (often simply called The Pine) is an area in Saint Michael, Barbados, part of the Greater Bridgetown metropolitan area.

Barbados is an island country in the Lesser Antilles of the West Indies, in the Caribbean region of the Americas, and the most easterly of the Caribbean Islands. It occupies an area of 432 km² (167 sq mi) and has a population of about 287,000 (2019 estimate). Its’ capital and largest city is Bridgetown.

Barbados’ population is predominantly of African ancestry.

LESSON INFORMATION

It is not often that we hear those mission stories of persons from the Caribbean becoming missionaries. Over the past ten years, the face of missions has been changing. Here's a story of a young woman from the Caribbean who accepted God's call to become a missionary.

Danielle Miller – The Girl from the Pine

In December 2022, a medium height, slender, beautiful dark skinned young woman of African descent, touched down at the airport in Georgetown, Guyana. She was about to embark on a new, unpredictable journey of faith, serving as a Global Missionary with the Church of the Nazarene. She did not bear the typical face of a missionary. Everything about her was different and unique.

There she was, Danielle Miller, member of the Collymore Rock Church of the Nazarene in the parish of Saint Michael, Barbados – the Girl from the Pine, excited and passionate to begin her new mission.

Danielle hails from the beautiful, small Caribbean island of Barbados – a country with just about 287,000 people. She grew up in Pine Hill, a low to middle income area with the associated environment. Danielle is a third generation Nazarene who accepted Christ at the age of 13 and surrendered her life to Christ at 16. She has served in NDI and NYI, but never had a desire to serve in NMI, although she helped out her aunts who were NMI leaders in her local church. She had never thought about being a missionary.

Danielle believes that God started calling her while she was studying at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago from 2012-2015. During that time, she experienced cross cultural living, as she shared space with persons from across the Caribbean.

After studying, Danielle returned home to Barbados where she began her career as a high school English teacher. In 2017, Rev. Dario Richards reached out to Danielle and invited her on a Play & Witness mission trip to Jamaica. She hesitated initially as she knew she was not into sports and she figured that mission was not her thing. She believed that going on a mission trip was not something for her, but for others. Eventually, she accepted the invitation.

That mission trip changed her life! Danielle witnessed God at work in the days leading up to the trip. During the mission trip, she took on an administrative role, making sure everyone was doing well and that things were on schedule. She shared with and interacted with youths and children daily, an experience she thoroughly enjoyed, and wished to experience again. She returned home pumped about missions. This trip transformed her life as it triggered her heart towards people. She began to see people as God saw them. This trip also served as a catalyst in her continuing in short term missions and eventually led her to saying YES to God's call to serve in Guyana.

Late in 2021, Danielle had a dream about moving from a small house to a big house. She thought God was going to give her a house, which she wanted. As time went by, she realized that the movement had nothing to do with a house, but more with where God was taking her. Having been presented with two options for service, Danielle approached God on which road he wanted her to take. God clearly spoke to her that he wanted her to go to Guyana. And that she did.

PRESENTATION IDEAS

Children

1. Do a skit or monologue of Danielle's life using the information presented.
2. Object Lesson: Radio

Discuss the different ways God speaks to you (the Bible, people, dreams etc.)

It's a still small voice – a quiet voice we hear on the inside. It is not always easy to hear. We have to tune in and listen.

Bring out radio. Scroll through stations. Make comments as you go. Talk about the different voices you heard. Discuss how you will know God's voice.

3. Show maps of Barbados and Guyana. Identify key places – capitals etc.
4. Craft Idea – Paper plane

Youth

1. Show the interview videos (Resources below) during two different sessions. Ask questions based on the interview and applying it to their lives. Challenge youths to listen to the voice of God OR Invite Danielle to share at your youth night.
2. Ponder what Danielle said after her Play and Witness Trip – that God transformed the way she saw people. How do you see people? Do you have a desire to see them saved?
3. Identify the ways God speaks to you.
4. Explore the Opportunities website to show where missionaries are currently needed.

Adults

1. Read the lesson
2. Identify ways God spoke to Danielle
3. Discuss her call and how it impacts your life or inspires you
4. Ponder what Danielle said after her Play and Witness Trip – that God transformed the way she saw people. How do you see people? Do you have a desire to see them saved?
5. Identify the ways God speaks to you.

ACT ON IT:

1. Offer prayer for Danielle throughout the year
2. Make a financial contribution to her ministry (Link below)
3. Invite Danielle to share at your local mission services (can be done via Zoom).
4. Take the opportunity to be a part of the next Global Mission Event on our Field.
It may be a Cross-Cultural Orientation or a short term mission event. Look out for it!

RESOURCES:

1. Video – Interview with Danielle (Part 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjV7N5lbPpM>

2. Video – Interview with Danielle (Part 2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EqMU5YEXkoY>

3. Danielle's Missionary Profile:

<https://give.nazarene.org/pledge/daniellemiller>

