

ALABASTER OFFERING

In 1948, Rev. Elizabeth Venum, Global Council member, was asked to think and pray about a challenging project for NMI. Rev. Venum knew if God wanted the project to take place, He would provide the plan. On the return trip from Kansas City, God gave her His plan of giving "love" gifts. It was modeled 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.

Now, more than 60 years later, Alabaster is still strong, having provided more than 8,600 projects since 1949. Faithful Nazarenes around the world have given approximately \$95 million dollars for this much-needed ministry.

The Alabaster Offering provides funds for property and buildings around the world. While we understand the church consists of the people of God and not a building, buildings erected for the purpose of ministry help provide a sense of permanence, functionally enhance ministry efforts, and convey an attitude that the Church of the Nazarene intends to "put down roots." Alabaster funds help provide land for many Work & Witness projects, and the entire Alabaster Offering goes toward the purchase of land and construction of churches, schools, medical facilities, and homes for missionaries and national workers.

How Are Alabaster Offerings Received?The Alabaster Offering gets to the mission field via several avenues. The most widely used is the Alabaster Box. Individuals are challenged to regularly contribute the cost of items they desire but do not need. The boxes also serve as reminders to pray for those people who will benefit from Alabaster buildings.

In September and February, the money is collected. Sometimes a "march offering" is received with individuals carrying their boxes to the front of the church and pouring the money into a large offering container. The way an offering is received is as varied as the world areas in which the Church of the Nazarene has a presence; however, it is always accompanied with a spirit of rejoicing.

Many churches receive regular offerings throughout the year that are designated as Alabaster funds. (This is often a part of the Faith Promise plan for missions giving.) However, the semi-annual offerings should still be received, allowing opportunity for giving by those not participating in other ways.

ATTENDANCES FOR JANUARY 1 - 31, 2013					
Church	Sunday Morning	Sunday School	Church	Sunday Morning	Sunday School
Anna First	89	67	Highland Community	NR	NR
Arcola First	36	26	Jerseyville	NR	NR
Arcola Spanish	NR	NR	Laclede	14	12
Auburn	NR	NR	Lincoln First	NR	NR
Barry	NR	NR	Mahomet	42	23
Beardstown	64	57	Mansfield Community	NR	NR
Beardstown Liberty Hispanic	30	15	Marion First	NR	NR
Belleville Emmanuel	46	45	Mattoon East Side	75	90
Belleville First	NR	NR	Mattoon Real Life Com.	26	14
Belleville Korean	18	1	Monticello	13	13
Benton First	NR	NR	Mount Carmel	20	11
Bethel Community	53	35	Mount Erie	41	28
Carbondale New Begin Com.	42	35	Mount Sterling	24	14
Carlinville First	47	37	Mount Vernon Faith	NR	NR
Carmi	46	45	Murphysboro	NR	NR
Casey	135	104	Nebo	64	31
Centralia	54	49	Oakwood	5	24
Champaign First	NR	NR	Ogden	49	44
Champaign New Day Com.	NR	NR	Olivet	61	41
Chrisman	62	23	Olney	76	58
Clinton First	73	50	Pana First	NR	NR
Collinsville Good Sam.	110	57	Paris First	83	59
Decatur First	498	506	Pittsfield	NR	NR
Decatur Oak Grove	57	27	Quincy Emmanuel	54	31
Decatur Parkway	NR	NR	Rantoul	69	49
Decatur Trinity	52	45	Roxana	NR	NR
Decatur West Side	74	74	Royalton First	104	90
Du Quoin	14	9	Salem Grace	387	274
Dupo Bluffview Christian Cntr.	NR	NR	Shelbyville	NR	NR
East St. Louis Rush Mem.	5	5	Sherman	70	57
Edgemont Grace	23	13	Sparta	NR	NR
Fairfield Fountain of Life	19	19	Springfield First	219	127
Fairview Hgts Parkview	44	37	Springfield Trinity	NR	NR
Flora	150	116	Taylorville First	NR	NR
Georgetown	NR	NR	Tuscola	36	6
Glenview	65	38	Urbana Lighthouse	89	78
Godfrey	33	29	Vandalia	NR	NR
Granite City CTM	NR	NR	Virden	NR	NR
Griggsville	NR	NR	West Union	NR	NR
Harrisburg Oasis	NR	NR	Total	3555	2736