

NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

15 March 2023

USA/Canada Region



United States of America

The work of the Church of the Nazarene began officially in the United States in 1887, though the formal organization of the denomination occurred in 1908 with the merger of several like-minded holiness groups. As in many parts of the world, there is an ever-increasing secularization of society, and in the post-COVID world, the United States finds itself fragmenting politically, socially, and economically with many Americans feeling isolated between extremes. There is a renewed emphasis on evangelism, discipleship, and church planting. Whether congregational settings are large or small, people are looking for church communities committed to authenticity, open-hearted fellowship, and a sense of belonging. The message of Scriptural holiness is more relevant than ever. It expresses itself through missions, often to the marginalized and disenfranchised of society. As you'll read in the story that follows, dividing walls come down, and God makes each genuine effort to honor Him in ministry and mission bear fruit for the Kingdom.



567,633 Members



4,217 Fully Organized Churches; 726 Not Yet Organized Churches



2,177 District Licensed and 11,425 Ordained Ministers on 73 Districts

PRAYER



- Pray for the ministry to the First Nations and other people groups across the USA/Canada Region.
- Pray for the New Mexico District and the Southwest Native American District as they minister to their diverse communities.
- Pray for a revival to break out in the churches in this region.
- Pray for USA/Canada Region as they prepare to welcome Nazarenes from around the world to Indianapolis for the General Assembly and Conventions.



PRAISE

- We praise God for the revival that is breaking out on our university campuses.
- We thank God for the heart of many of our churches to intentionally connect with the marginalized in their community.
- We thank God that churches in this region believe we are better together and are partnering to transform lives.

NMI SNAPSHOT



Pastor Chris Davis and her white van are making a significant impact in the lives of the Navajo people in Gallup, New Mexico, and on the Navajo and Zuni Reservations.



Pastor Chris

Gallup is a town of around 22,000 people, primarily Native American from the Navajo Tribe that borders the Navajo and Zuni Reservations.

Pastor Davis has been pastoring the Gallup First Church of the Nazarene since 2011. It is a smaller congregation of about 20 to 25 people; half are white, and half are Navajo. With the generous support of Bethany First Church in Oklahoma, a 12-hour drive away, which sends ministry teams, supplies, and firewood through the McGrady Foundation, this small congregation is making a significant impact.



Delivery of fire wood from Bethany, Oklahoma First Church of the Nazarene

Pastor Chris' compassionate heart led her to intentionally connect with the marginalized people in her community—the homeless population in downtown Gallup, who are mostly Native Americans struggling with alcohol and drug abuse. Each week, arriving in her white van, Pastor Chris brings sack lunches and the Word of God. Through this ministry, she has developed strong friendships and connections with this people group who recognize her van and have come to trust her.

From ministering to the downtown homeless, her ministry expanded into the Navajo Reservation. Several times a week, she drives her white van to deliver firewood, water, clothing, and Bluebird flour, which the Navajo use to make frybread for the elderly and other vulnerable individuals. The Navajo have a deep respect for the elderly, so watching Pastor Chris caring for this older generation has brought many on the reservation to, in turn, trust and respect her as well.



Distribution of clothing and supplies in the Gallup community

Along with ministering to the elderly, she holds Bible studies with the women on the reservation. Because of her connection and faithfulness in serving the women and elderly, she is now being invited by the men of the reservation to teach Bible studies in their men-only meeting lodges, often called “sweat lodges.”

Pastor Chris is a white woman in her sixties, driving a white van, who has gained such credibility and respect that she can go anywhere on the reservation without fear, often to places where non-Natives rarely have access. And while many don't attend church, they consider her their pastor. Through her powerful ministry to the marginalized Native Americans in her community and on the reservations, lives are being transformed, and God's Kingdom is expanding.

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to participate in this or other ministries among the marginalized? For more information, contact Multicultural Ministries by writing to bruss@usacanadaregion.org



See the past archive of NMI Central publications [here](#).



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