

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

13 March 2024

## USA/Canada Region



## Kent, Washington, USA

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, many of whom are immigrant populations who entered the United States as refugees from around the world. While the significant increase in refugees seeking asylum in the United States has proved challenging, it has also provided wonderful opportunities to bridge differences between cultures and introduce the love of Jesus to all who locate in neighborhoods where the Church of the Nazarene is present. The USA/Canada Region is focusing this year on an initiative of “blessing our community.”\* As you’ll read in the story that follows, unutilized resources can become channels for connecting with and blessing others who need to know that they are loved and cared for by Christ’s followers.

\* <https://www.usacanadaregion.org/cycle-of-resurgence/blessing-our-community>



567,633 Members



4,327 Fully Organized Churches; 726 Not Yet Organized Churches



2,177 District Licensed and 11,245 Ordained Ministers on 73 Districts

---

## PRAYER



- Pray that the gardeners and the Afghan women will experience the love of Christ in their friendship with the church members.
- Pray that a revival will break out in the churches and the in hearts of Nazarenes throughout the USA/Canada region.
- Pray that the Church of the Nazarene will continue to find creative ways to reach others for Christ, to bless their communities.

---

## PRAISE



- Praise God that churches in the USA/Canada region are helping displaced people find community and hope in their new country.
- Praise God that the Kent Hillside church ministries are transforming the lives of their neighbors.
- Praise God for the new churches started from ministry to refugees and immigrants in the USA/Canada region.



Kent, Washington, a town of 134,000 people, is rated the 7th most diverse city in America. On a hill near the heart of the town is Kent Hillside Church of the Nazarene, a church that wanted to reflect the diversity of its neighborhood.

Assessing their resources and who their neighbors were, the church realized that they had unutilized resources that could be used for ministry. There was an unused parking lot; and a church member who was a sewing instructor had eight sewing machines in her garage. Immigrants and refugees from various countries lived around the church building. Many were newly arrived, looking for community and green spaces for growing vegetables from their homeland. Many of the newly arrived women felt isolated, as most knew little English, had no family support, and needed help managing the transit system.



The church transformed the parking lot into a community garden managed by neighbors from over 20 countries. Coming weekly to care for their garden beds, the neighbors made friends while learning from one another.



A women's sewing class for Afghan refugees started, where they learn basic sewing skills while making beautiful things for their homes. They have learned simple English and how to ride the transit system, and more importantly, they have built relationships with one another that helped ease the isolation of this new and unfamiliar life.

The outcome from these ministries is more than vegetables and fabric - it's people from diverse backgrounds speaking different languages, finding common ground, and being woven together into a beautiful blend of God's creative grace. Kent Hillside discovered the mission field in its neighborhood and is reaching out, illustrating God's love for all His people.

---

**Could You Serve?**

Is God calling you to serve in more creative ways on the USA/ Canada Region. For more information, click [here](#).

---

NMI Central is available in a curated PDF archive.

To read previous editions, click [here](#).

---



17001 Prairie Star Pkwy  
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

