



### **The New NEW**

By Becky Ramsey, Christian and Public School Representative

The Nazarene Educators Worldwide (NEW) Council members recently returned from the General Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, where they asked attendees how they could better serve and support other educators in the Church of the Nazarene who have answered the call to teach. NEW wants to serve teachers in all areas of education around the world.

#### **Teachers want to help others.**

While we shared some of our newest ideas—offering free training seminars, mentorships, and resource teams available for member schools and individuals—teacher after teacher amazed us because they also wanted to be available to help those presently serving in this difficult vocation. Every teacher or parent in education today knows that this vocation has definite challenges. These experiences that threaten our vocation should not surprise us, because James 3:1 (NIV) warns us: “Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” I do not believe that James was saying we should not choose this important vocation. However, we should be aware that it is not an easy vocation.

In my career, I taught for many years in Christian schools. However, I ended my career in a public school. Even though God called me to serve in a Christian school for a time, He also called me to serve as a Christian in a public school that did not always look kindly at my personal belief structure or me serving as a Christlike example in a darkened world. In NEW’s General Assembly workshop, I was amazed that, while NEW originally started to support our Nazarene Christian schools, our largest delegation attending the gathering was public school teachers. The teachers at my table astounded me when every one of them volunteered to be part of a resource team to help in planning the best ways to help public school teachers.

Those actions say several things to me: the teachers see the need where they are; they see other teachers have needs also; and, most importantly, they realize they can be a part of the solution. Whether it be in preschool/daycare, homeschool, Christian school, or public school (all areas NEW

serves), educators and administrators are facing a time like no other in the past. The challenges coming against our profession are great and seem overwhelming to those attempting to perform this all-important vocation that can prepare students for life and occupations. If we combine our efforts, we can accomplish more. As a team, we will not just survive—we can thrive.

### **What should educators do?**

The first thing educators need to do is to become a member of NEW. We use the membership fees to serve other educators through the website, resources, and activities to tell them what NEW wants to offer. Council members do not benefit from membership costs. Members benefit from the teamwork offered. The best, most reasonable way to join is through institutional membership. A Christian school or a homeschool co-op can join as a group for a more reasonable rate than individual rates within those groups. Yet the most fiscally responsible way to join is as a church. My church purchases an institutional membership and covers every teacher in a Christian, public school, or a homeschool within the congregation. Individual membership is \$35 dollars annually while institutional memberships are \$100 for up to 5 members and \$200 for up to 51 members. You could evaluate all that NEW has to offer and join personally, or you could convince your pastor that all the educators in the church could be blessed as well through group membership.

### **How can the website help educators?**

Take time to study everything that NEW offers on the website at [nazareneeducatorsworldwide.wildapricot.org](http://nazareneeducatorsworldwide.wildapricot.org) and begin to share with those you know in the field of education. Spread this best-kept secret in the Church of the Nazarene.

### **Other ways to help**

Better yet, you could choose to join one of our efforts in any of the following ways:

- Write articles like the ones you find in the current newsletter or those archived on the website from the past. The organization has archives of former articles on the website by month and year, by area of representation, and by author and date. Current and past council members are not the only individuals who can inform, challenge, or inspire other teachers by authoring articles for the newsletter. God could use you in this area. We need writers. If you would like to submit an article for consideration, contact Beula Postlewait at [bpostlewait@kc.rr.com](mailto:bpostlewait@kc.rr.com).
- Volunteer to be on a specific resource team or teams where you have had experience. These resource teams will meet at agreed-upon times to brainstorm and implement ways that we could better serve the membership in their own areas. Obviously, the needs of a homeschool parent or co-op will differ from a Christian school teacher. A Christian school teacher will differ from the public school teacher. A preschool teacher will differ from a middle school teacher. When we work together in our areas of expertise, we can improve education and teachers around the world. If you would like to volunteer in your area, please join council members in our efforts, and contact the council person in charge of your field:
  1. Global schools - Beula Postlewait at [bpostlewait@kc.rr.com](mailto:bpostlewait@kc.rr.com)
  2. Homeschool - Jan Wilton at [revjan2008@gmail.com](mailto:revjan2008@gmail.com)
  3. Preschool/Daycare - Midge Simpson Farr at [mustangmidge@gmail.com](mailto:mustangmidge@gmail.com)

4. Public schools - Becky Ramsey at [ramseyfamily2771@gmail.com](mailto:ramseyfamily2771@gmail.com)
  5. Christian schools - Nancy Shonamon at [snaoffice@shawneenazacademy.org](mailto:snaoffice@shawneenazacademy.org)
  6. Higher education - Mark Taylor at [mtaylor@stlcc.edu](mailto:mtaylor@stlcc.edu)
- Volunteer to be or use a mentor. Webster's Dictionary describes a mentor as "A trusted counselor or guide." What teacher has not had the need for a guide through the rough and sometimes dangerous paths of education? Choosing to be a trusted counselor or guide for another educator, either a new teacher or one experiencing difficult problems, is choosing to shepherd another teacher in the flock of educators. We can choose to become like our great Shepherd, who has promised to be there in time of need. In John 10, Jesus tells the difference between being a shepherd and a hired hand. Are we going to choose to be a shepherd like our Savior or only a hired-hand teacher? Hired hands are only concerned about their own jobs, not the needs of others around them. Christ calls us to be shepherds who will lay down our own priorities to help others around us. If you would be willing to be a mentor, please contact our chairperson, Marilyn Dominick, at [mjdominick77@gmail.com](mailto:mjdominick77@gmail.com).

Nazarene Educators Worldwide council members want to strengthen this organization, and we need you to be a part to accomplish this momentous task. Please choose to be a unique part of the new NEW. We need others like you and teachers you know to join this important organization. We want to THRIVE, not just survive, and be able to serve others.

**Becky Ramsey** lives in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. She has taught in public and Christian schools. She served recently as a reading and math intervention specialist. Although she retired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, she continues to volunteer in a local school.