

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

20 August 2025

## Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia, Mesoamerica, South America, USA-Canada Regions



### Alabaster Offerings

Following the end of World War II, in the late 1940s, the Church of the Nazarene was experiencing a need for more mission funding. At a meeting of the Global NMI Council, Elizabeth Vennum was asked to find a way that could be used to raise funds for land purchases and building construction needs around the world. As she rode the train home from that council meeting, she said the Lord gave her the details for the Alabaster offering.

The offering was based on the story of the woman pouring perfume on Jesus from a container carved from soft alabaster stone. Building on that Biblical story, Nazarene's were asked to put off buying new perfume for themselves or postpone purchasing something for themselves, and to give that money in the Alabaster offering instead. In much the same way that the woman gave her bottle of perfume to Jesus, we have been called to pour out a lavish offering for others. Alabaster was first promoted using this phrase: "Give up a want to meet a need."

Alabaster has long been a hallmark of Nazarene generosity and sacrifice, and continues to achieve great things, laying foundations where people worship, heal, and learn.

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## **PRAYER**



- Pray that the Lord will continue to multiply the generous giving of Nazarenes from across the globe through Alabaster offerings.
- Pray for a renewed spirit of generosity in every generation to give to Alabaster, laying foundations where people worship, heal, and learn.
- Pray for war-torn areas where the Church of the Nazarene is working, where structures have been destroyed, and new building projects will likely be submitted.

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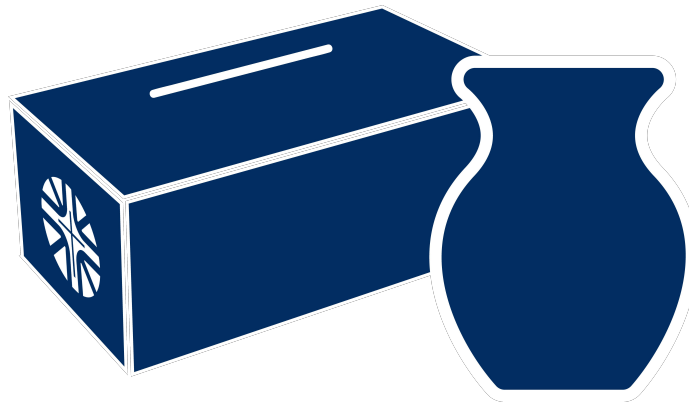
## **PRAISE**



- Praise God for the faithfulness in giving to Alabaster from Nazarenes around the world.
- Praise the Lord for every contribution to Alabaster, by every generation. The Lord multiplies those gifts for great impact.



In preparation for Alabaster Offerings that will be received in many congregations around the world in September, the following information and resources may prove helpful in promoting and receiving those sacrificial offerings.



Churches lay the foundation through Alabaster offerings for places where people worship, heal, and learn by encouraging global participation each year. Every Alabaster project is a joint effort of local contribution and labor, combined with global love and support in bringing tangible presence and a sense of long-term commitment to a community. No Alabaster funds are used for administrative costs.

- Nazarenes gave US \$2.8 million for Alabaster to fund projects in 2024. The Alabaster Offering is used in all six global regions.
- Often, Alabaster giving goes hand in hand with Nazarene Missions Teams, who help build structures funded by Alabaster and the contributions of Nazarene Missions Teams. NMI assisted 355 Nazarene Missions Teams, comprised of 4,664 participants for projects.

To access the icon for Alabaster, one of NMI's Five Areas of Impact, as well as Alabaster videos available in English, French, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish, click [here](#).

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**Could You Serve?**

Is God calling you to do more in Alabaster giving?

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NMI Central is available in a curated PDF archive.

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