

## Featured Articles

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by Melodee Simmons

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for Teacher Observation  
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# THE NEW



Nazarene  
Educators  
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To embrace, encourage, and empower through a network of Christian educators.

## God Bless Teachers - By Melodee Simmons, Childcare/Preschool Representative

I have a lapel pin that says, "God Bless Teachers."

That is my wish for all teachers, but especially for pre-school/early childhood learning center teachers. They are the ones that fill in for mom and dad throughout the day. They give love, comfort, and security to all the children. They train the children in the social skills they need for life. They help them gain the knowledge to be prepared for kindergarten. While doing all of this, these teachers are preparing lesson plans, filling in reports, and following all the laws that govern childcare. They also wipe noses, tie shoe, and clean up anything that can come out of a child.

Many spend hours at home preparing materials, and they often spend their own money for supplies to enhance their lesson plans.

These teachers choose this career because they love the children. They know the salaries are low and the hours can be long.

These teachers do it for the hugs, the smiles, and the look of joy on a child's face as he/she accomplishes a new step in his or her development.

These teachers are helping to raise our next generation.

Thank you for all you do. May God richly bless you and your families for your dedication to His smallest children.

*Wishing You a Blessed Thanksgiving*



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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

[www.naznew.net](http://www.naznew.net)

## ***Fear Not! How to Prepare for Teacher Observatin and Evaluation***

By Marilyn Dominick - Public School Representative

I've recently been blessed with an opportunity to work for a charter school to provide support for teachers prior to formal evaluation, to coach administrators, and to assist in the teacher observation and evaluation process. After many years of being spread so thin in the public school systems here in New York, I am so happy to be able to focus on the improvement of instructional practice.

Our charter school uses a very sound model, and I would like to share with you what I have learned in the past few months. Please consider this article as a resource to help you prepare for an honest evaluation, with the intention of improving your strategies to benefit your students.

- **Be proactive!** Make sure you know the criteria that will be used to evaluate your instructional practice. If this has not been provided to you, go right now and talk to your principal or other administrator who will be involved in the process. This will accomplish three things: You will impress your boss with your proactive approach, and you will know the "rules." You will have a chance to practice implementing them before the actual observation.
  - **If possible, provide your administrator an outline of what he/she will see when he/she comes to your room.**
    - Provide a copy of your lesson plan and any state curricular connection to that lesson.
    - Include how you will connect to the students (culturally, with their interests in mind, and with varying ability levels). How wonderful you will look if you have already thought about differentiating instruction and hooking your lesson activities to the students' interests and cultures.
    - Make sure that you list the resources you will use and even incorporate some resources from outside of the school. There are many great instructional video clips. I especially like Kahn Academy. Google it to see what I mean. You can also find experts in your subject area who live in the community. Even though you won't bring in an expert on the day you are evaluated, you could mention that you plan to do this.
- (Continued on page 3.)

## ***New Nazarene School Helps to Fill Education Gap in DRC\****

[Education] in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is not free.

DRC schools can cost anywhere from US\$5 to US\$50 per month. The more expensive the school is, the better the education is.

"Imagine being the sixth or eighth child in a family of 10 children and hoping your parents will be able to afford for you to attend school," wrote Nazarene DRC missionaries Gavin and Jill Fothergill.

The Church of the Nazarene's South Katanga District in Southern DRC has seen this need and has a vision to build schools. These schools will give quality education to families who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford it. One of these schools has officially opened in the neighborhood of Katuba, in Lubumbashi.

When construction on the school in Katuba began in July of 2014, children gathered around as the first bricks were laid and walls started to come up.

"When we would ask the children where they attend school, they would respond, 'Here,'" the Fothergills said.

"No, where are you attending now?" they asked. "This school isn't open yet." Again, the children's response was, 'Here!' That's when we realized so many children were waiting for a good education at an affordable price."

On October 5, Complexe Scolaire du Nazaréen opened its doors to the community of Katuba, hosting kindergarten through fifth grade for US\$6.50 per month. Currently, there are more than 100 students in attendance and more coming to enroll each day. Students are learning French (most come from homes where only Swahili is spoken), math, science, and Bible.

"Quality education with a biblical foundation!" the Fothergills said.

[Editor's Note: Nazarene Educators Worldwide salutes these missionaries, the Fothergills, and the people of the South Katanga District for their vision to build schools and provide quality education –academically and spiritually-- for these students.]

\* This article appeared in the November 5, 2015 edition of NCN News. For photos of the building and some of the students, go to [www.ncnnews.com](http://www.ncnnews.com). It was picked up from -Church of the Nazarene Africa Region via Out of Africa

## Fear Not! How to Prepare for Teacher Observatin and Evaluation

By Marilyn Dominick - Public School Representative

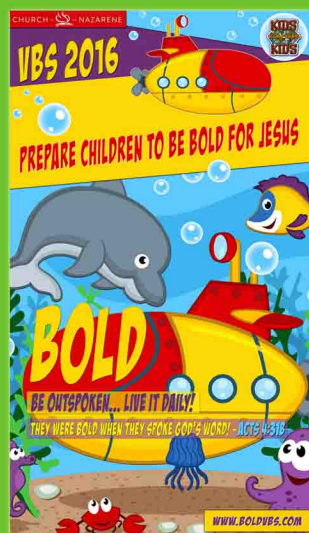
(Continued from page 2.)

- Make sure your classroom routines are well-organized and you practice those routines every day. Show evidence of how your classroom transitions look: routines for passing out and gathering materials, what you expect from students when they enter (warm up work, for example), and how they exit. Do you have rules about leaving the room? Do you have a system for refocusing your students? Do they pack up well before class is over? Do you dismiss them, or does the bell do this? Is there an exit ticket to assess their learning for that day? You get the idea.
  - Tell specifically how you will know that the students have learned what you intended.
  - Make a plan to engage all students in discussion and activities, and plan for student-to-student interaction around high level thinking topics/questions. If you do all the talking, students never get a chance to construct their own meaning. If you are using groups, tell how you formed the groups.
  - Provide copies of any artifacts you will be using.
  - Consider anything else you think the administrator ought to know about your classroom and lesson. Don't assume the administrator knows anything about your plan or your classroom.
- After the observation, consider writing a personal reflection of how you think the lesson went. Be positive, but honest. If something went especially well, say so. If you think something could have gone more smoothly or could be tweaked, say so. Write a quick email to thank the administrator for coming and articulate that you look forward to his/her feedback. Think of the observation as two educators putting their heads together to improve instruction. Ask if you could have a copy of the evaluation prior to meeting for the post-observation conference. If there are recommendations offered, be ready to explain how you plan to implement them.
  - At the post-observation conference, do not be defensive, but be appreciative of the feedback, whether you agree or not. If you think you have information to share with the evaluator that would lead to an improved observation/evaluation, share it calmly and clearly. In my years of teacher evaluations, I have changed many observations based on new information or clarification. Thank the evaluator at the end of the meeting and invite him/her to visit any time.

Hopefully this article has given you some help and will cause some of you to relax and even enjoy the process. Show them what you've got!!!!

Honest evaluation is one path to improved instruction, so embrace it and be the best teacher you can be. With God's help, you and your students will do very well!

I would love to have your thoughts on the process in your school.  
Feel free to email me at [mjdominick77@gmail.com](mailto:mjdominick77@gmail.com)



## BOLD VBS - A FREE RESOURCE AVAILABLE TO YOU

Available in the Spring of 2016, **BOLD** Vacation Bible School will help you take the children of your local church or school on a **BOLD** adventure for Jesus. In a world that discourages Christians from speaking out about their faith, **BOLD** will lead children through the book of Acts, preparing them to **Be Outspoken** about their faith in Jesus and to boldly **Live it Daily!**

Preview now and request your free kit at [WWW.BOLDVBS.COM](http://WWW.BOLDVBS.COM).



## Are You a Member of Nazarene Educators Worldwide?

NEW is an organization that supports Nazarene educators in Christian schools, childhood learning centers, public schools, private schools, home schools, global and international schools, our colleges and universities who are training educators, and our pastors and administrators of Christian schools. Your membership will run from now through August 31, 2016.

A group of homeschooling educators who belong to a co-op can join as an institution or as individual members. Students enrolled as education majors can receive free membership.

NEW produces a downloadable monthly newsletter with articles for each area of education. NEW has a council made up of representatives from each area of education. The current and archived articles from the NEW newsletters and contact information for the council can be found at the NEW website, [www.naznew.net](http://www.naznew.net). The council members are available to answer questions and help to resource teachers.

To join or renew membership to NEW, go to the website and click on membership. Find the category of membership that represents your position. Download and complete the form. Mail the form and the appropriate amount of money to Dan Harris at the address on the form. You can also become a member online by following the directions on the membership site.

Thank you for your support of Nazarene Educators Worldwide. Dr. Jim Upchurch, the Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Olivet Nazarene University, is the chair of NEW. You are encouraged to contact Dr. Upchurch or any member of the NEW Council if you have questions. See the website for their contact information. You can also contact NEW on Facebook.

The Kids Reaching Kids Mission Offering Project for 2016 is **POWER: UNLOCKING THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD**. This offering will help combat biblical illiteracy by equipping children with God's Word.

### 2016 MISSION OFFERING PROJECT



#### WHAT IS BIBLICAL ILLITERACY?

Biblical illiteracy is what happens when a child either does not have access to the Bible or biblical teaching. It can also occur when a child who has access to the Bible or biblical teaching chooses not to spend time reading the Bible or listening to biblical teaching.

#### HOW WILL POWER HELP COMBAT THESE TWO PROBLEMS OF BIBLICAL ILLITERACY?

1. For those children across the globe who do not have easy access to the Bible, **POWER** will fund ministry efforts aimed at putting the Bible in print or electronic form into the hands of children. 2. **POWER** will also help fund ministries whose aim is to educate children about the importance of spending time reading the Bible and listening to biblical teaching.

#### MARK 12:24 NIRV

One day a group of Sadducees came to Jesus with a question. Sadducees were wealthy members of the ruling council who were known for not accepting the promise of the resurrection. The question they asked Jesus on that day revealed to Jesus that the Sadducees did not understand the Scriptures. Before Jesus answered their question, He told them what the real problem was.

*"Jesus replied, 'You are mistaken because you do not know the Scriptures. And you do not know the power of God'"* (Mark 12:24, NIRV).

Children face difficulties in their lives. Many of them may have a lot of questions they would like to ask Jesus. Just as was the case with the Sadducees, children can find the answers they seek when they engage God's Word on a regular basis.

#### HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Inspire the children of your local church to help combat biblical illiteracy by getting involved with **POWER**. When you visit [www.krknaz.com](http://www.krknaz.com), you will find promotional items and additional information about **POWER**, including five mission lessons that you may download and use for free. You can also order posters, bookmarks, and bracelets to further raise awareness of **POWER**.