

Asia-Pacific Region



Australia

Aboriginal Australians are considered the oldest known civilization on earth, and Southeast Asian settlers arrived in Australia centuries before Europeans arrived in the 17th century. From 1788 until 1823, the New South Wales colony (now Australia) was officially a penal colony and settled by thousands of British and Irish released convicts who had served their sentences, “transported” there for the purpose of populating the large territory. By 1829, all of Australia was claimed for Great Britain. In the 1850s, gold rushes attracted many to the colonies and began to shift Australia away from its penal colony roots. Numerous people groups have settled in Australia throughout its history, resulting in diverse cultural populations. Independence was somewhat gradual, beginning with the federation in 1901. In 1942, it severed most constitutional links with the UK but remained a part of the British Commonwealth. In 1986, the British and Australian governments passed the Australia Act, which removed any remaining legislative or legal power that the British government had over Australia, making it a fully independent country. However, Australia remains an active participant in the Commonwealth. While Christianity is the majority religion, over 30% of people make no faith claim. Like many places around the globe, relevancy is a continuing challenge. Many have negative attitudes toward Christians’ perceived intolerance, and individualized spirituality without accountability is often preferred. Many denominations are in decline. The Church of the Nazarene established work in Australia in 1946 and has sought to live out the message of Scriptural Holiness as Christlike disciples in this diverse nation.



1,028 Members



31 Fully Organized Churches; 6 Not Yet Organized Churches



10 District Licensed and 52 Ordained Ministers on 2 Districts

PRAYER



- Pray for our Australian Nazarene church families to continue to be united, inspired, and challenged in missions wherever they serve.
- Pray for opportunities for the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in their communities.
- Pray for next generations to hear and respond to God's call to ministry in this part of the Asia-Pacific Region.

PRAISE



- Praise God for the Nazarene family in Australia who are demonstrating Jesus' love to those in need.
- Praise God for the faithfulness of Nazarenes in their efforts to reach the many people groups that make up Australia's diverse populace.



Kids Kaleidoscope

Click [here](#) to access Kids Kaleidoscope, a monthly addition to NMI Central to awaken and nurture a spirit of missions in everyone.



For the past several years Pastor Yousin Hou has been ministering to several Aboriginal communities in the Perth and South region in Western Australia. He is pastoring and supporting six different communities, covering hundreds of kilometers each week.



In the last four years the districts across Australia have come together to support the ministry to the Aboriginals by blessing the children in these communities with backpacks filled with practical and fun gifts for Christmas. This year, the districts had another backpack distribution, which began with a celebration service and Christmas love lunch with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters to build relationships and share God's love with them. Five churches of the Nazarene in the Perth area gathered at Cullacabardee to share in the festivities.



Pastor Houe and his team's goal was to distribute 240 backpacks, which had been prepared in Perth at the Dianella Church of the Nazarene. The churches across the two districts (Australia South and Australia Northwest Districts) are encouraged to donate funds for the backpacks and their contents. Pastor Houe and a team traveled 300 km, from town to town around Western Australia distributing the backpacks to Aboriginal children. While not all Aboriginal children need the backpack, they experience God's love for them through this ministry.



The Christmas backpacks have been a great opportunity for the Nazarene family to show God's love in a tangible way. The message of hope and joy in Jesus is spread through these backpacks.

Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve on the Asia-Pacific Region?

For more information, click [here](#).

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17001 Prairie Star Pkwy
Lenexa, KS | 66220 US

