

Periods in Nazarene History

Developed by the Nazarene Archives

1887-1907	Parent Denominations
1896-1915	Consolidation
1911-1928	Search for Solid Foundations
1928-1945	Persistence Amid Adversity
1945-1960	Mid-Century Crusade for Souls
1960-1980	Toward the Post-War Evangelical Mainstream
1976-2003	Internationalization

Detail

Period One: 1887-1907 Parent Denominations

This period was characterized by the formation of seven different Wesleyan-holiness bodies which originated separately in different sections of the United States and the British Isles but had consolidated by 1915.

This section can have a brief page on each of the early parent bodies and have links to articles already on the internet and articles which we place on the internet pertaining to the regional founders and regional organizations.

Period Two: 1896-1915 Consolidation

This timeframe looks at the mergers that created the present-day Church of the Nazarene. Two of these mergers occurred regionally:

1896 – The Central Evangelical Holiness Association (a New England denomination) and the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America (a denomination centered in New York State) merged together. Although the New England group was older and larger, the name of the younger group was taken as that of the merged entity.

1904—The Holiness Church of Christ was created by the merger of the New Testament Church of Christ and the Independent Holiness Church.

The next mergers occurred between October 1907 and October 1908.

1907—The Church of the Nazarene (west coast) and the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America merged at the First General Assembly, held in Chicago, Illinois. The new body

took the name Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. P. F. Bresee and H. F. Reynolds were elected as the general superintendents of the united church.

April 1908—P. F. Bresee organized a congregation of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene at Peniel, Texas, a holiness community near Greenville. This move prompts dozens of members of the interdenominational Holiness Association of Texas to unite with the PCN through its Peniel congregation. Mrs. E. P. Ellyson was appointed pastor of the Peniel Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

September 1908—The Pennsylvania Conference of the Holiness Christian Church united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

October 1908—The Holiness Church of Christ merged with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene at the Second General Assembly, held at the Holiness Church of Christ headquarters in Pilot Point, Texas. P. F. Bresee and H. F. Reynolds were re-elected as general superintendents and E. P. Ellyson was elected to join them on the Board of General Superintendents. (The Sixth General Assembly in 1923 chose the Second General Assembly as the denomination's official anniversary date.)

1915—Two mergers during the year brought the Pentecostal Mission, headquartered in Nashville, Tennessee, and the Pentecostal Church of Scotland into the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

By the end of 1915, what had once been seven separate holiness denominations, and part of an eight group, had merged into one church.

Period Three: 1911-1928 A More Perfect Union

The merging bodies that created the Church of the Nazarene sought to create the inner reality of union by developing a common agenda.

In general leadership, H. F. Reynolds became senior general superintendent after Bresee's death in 1915. Reynolds played a key role in convincing Nazarenes that a "mission to the world" should be one of the church's highest priorities. For 17 of his 25 years as a general superintendent, he also served as general missionary secretary, bringing his passion for cross-cultural missions to every public event where he participated. His 1913-14 trip around the world became a key event in publicizing missions and in expanding role of general superintendent to an international role.

John W. Goodwin and R. T. Williams joined the Board of General Superintendents in 1916. B. F. Haynes became founding editor of *Herald of Holiness* in 1912. He was succeeded 10 years later by J. B. Chapman. Chapman also founded *The Preacher's Magazine* in 1926, which he edited until his death 20 years later, and he joined the BGS in 1928.

A network of liberal arts colleges began to grow.

A series of key events in this period shaped the church for the next century and beyond:

1911 Third General Assembly authorized the Nazarene Publishing House and selected Kansas City as its site.

1915 Fourth General Assembly authorized the creation of a women's auxiliary, the Woman's Missionary Society.

1923 Sixth General Assembly created the General Board and a general budget system for funding general interests. It also authorized a youth auxiliary, the Nazarene Young People's Society.

1928 Seventh General Assembly radically revised the church's Manual in virtually all areas and strengthened the General Board system.

The period was characterized by "coast to coast" revivals conducted under the auspices of the Board of Home Missions. Bud Robinson and C. W. Ruth were the premier Nazarene evangelists of the period.

The Seth Rees controversy rocked the church in 1917 and threatened it with the possibility of unraveling the union. But ultimately only 500 Nazarenes left the church with Rees. Rees went on to play an important leadership role in the Pilgrim Holiness Church.

Period Four: 1928-1945 Persistence Amid Adversity

The period was characterized by financial crisis in the early part and World War in the latter. These two adversities severely limited the church's ability to carry out its sense of "mission to the world." "Retrenchment," a policy of closing mission fields, was necessitated by financial difficulties. World war, likewise, limited opportunities for missionary expansion.

Despite these difficulties, Nazarenes built hospitals in China (Bresee Memorial Hospital), Swaziland (Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital), and India (Reynolds Memorial Hospital) during this period, and a small teaching hospital (the Samaritan Hospital) in Nampa, Idaho, that prepared nurses for missionary assignments abroad.

Period Five: 1945-1960 Mid-Century Crusade for Souls

The post-war era was characterized by *an explosion of missionary activity* that took the church into new areas, such as Korea and the Philippines. It also entered Australia and Italy when significant indigenous works in these countries united with the Church of the Nazarene. The Mid-Century Crusade for Souls (the quadrennial theme for 1948-52 and 1952-56) and other evangelistic efforts characterized the church in North America and around the world. To maximize its global impact, the denomination committed itself to providing *graduate theological training for ministers* when Nazarene Theological Seminary was founded in 1945. Radio broadcasts were authorized and the "*Showers of Blessing*" program began, soon followed by "*La Hora Nazarena*" and broadcasts in other languages.

Period Six: 1960-1980 Toward the Evangelical Mainstream

The 1960s were a time of social ferment around the world. World War II had spelled the end of European colonialism, and new nations emerged in Africa and Asia that were no longer under the thumb of colonial powers. There was widespread student unrest around the world. In the U.S., the civil rights movement and the anti-war movement galvanized young people, while those who were disaffected by politics gravitated toward hippie culture.

The church tried hard to reach its own youth. Youth music groups, like Lost and Found, were formed. Student Mission Corp developed. The Maranatha Church of the Nazarene sought to evangelize hippies with Christian rock music and a worship style attuned to the young.

Urban ministry and *compassionate ministry* returned to the heart of the church, as an aspect of evangelism and as a sign of the Kingdom of God at work in our midst. This occurred first through the founding of urban ministries, particularly the Community of Hope in Washington, D.C., and the Manhattan Church of the Nazarene in New York City.

Period Seven: 1980-2001 The Era of Internationalization

The 1980 General Assembly accepted *internationalization* as a philosophy that should guide the denomination's future development. Internationalization was not a blueprint but a conviction that national lines should not determine denominational lines. Instead, Nazarenes committed themselves to transcending the social and national lines that divide peoples.

The period was the one of rapid growth. The church entered more new fields than ever before. Its membership rose from just over 674,000 in 1980 to over 1.4 million members in 2001. New forms of social ministry were institutionalized through the creation of NCM International and NCM USA/Canada. A new graduate school of theology was established in the Philippines. And at the Twenty-fifth General Assembly in 2001, over 40% of the delegates present and voting either spoke English as their second language . . . or did not speak it at all.

Timeframe 1
Nazarene Origins: The Parent Bodies
1887-1906

The Church of the Nazarene resulted from the mergers of seven different Wesleyan-holiness denominations that originated in different sections of the United States and Great Britain. By 1915, these had consolidated into a single denomination. The first phase of Nazarene history, then, lies in the distinctive stories of these parent bodies.

- 1887 The People's Evangelical Church organized in Providence, R.I. with Rev. Fred A. Hillery as pastor. Other New England holiness churches organize over the following months.
- 1890 The Central Evangelical Holiness Association created by ten New England holiness congregations. It is the earliest denomination in the Church of the Nazarene's lineage.
- 1892 Mrs. Anna S. Hanscombe, one of the first women ordained to the ministry in the history of Christianity, ordained by the Central Evangelical Holiness Association and installed as pastor at Malden, Mass.
- 1894 Utica Avenue Pentecostal Tabernacle organized in Brooklyn, New York, by William Howard Hoople. Other Brooklyn churches organized over the next year.
- 1894 The New Testament Church of Christ organized in Milan, Tenn., by Robert Lee Harris. Over the next five years, it spreads to Arkansas, Missouri, Texas, and Alabama.
- 1895 Church of the Nazarene organized in Los Angeles, Cal., by Phineas F. Bresee and Joseph P. Widney as pastors and general superintendents. Two sister churches organized in northern California in 1898. In 1903 more intentional church planting begins, and by 1906 there are over 40 churches, some east of the Mississippi River.
- 1895 Three congregations organized in Brooklyn by Hoople form the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.
- 1896 Central Evangelical Holiness Association and the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America unite and consolidate their forces. Although the New England group was larger, the APCA name was considered more suitable and was adopted by the united body .
- 1898 Revs. Thomas and Dennis Rogers begin organizing a connection of holiness churches in Texas. Linked initially to The Holiness Church, a small California body.
- 1898 Missions in western India opened by missionaries sent there by the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.

- 1898 The Pentecostal Alliance (later known as the Pentecostal Mission) organized by Rev. J. O. McClurkan in Nashville, Tenn. Eventually develops a connection of churches in the southeastern United States.
- 1899 Texas Holiness University established at Peniel, Texas. United with Bethany-Peniel College in 1920, now Southern Nazarene University.
- 1900 Pentecostal Collegiate Institute established at Saratoga Springs, N.Y., by the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America. Later moved to Massachusetts and known as Eastern Nazarene College.
- 1901 First congregation of the Independent Holiness Church organized at Van Alstyne, Texas by Rev. C. B. Jernigan. Over the next four years, other congregations organized, including ones in Oklahoma Territory. Soon absorbs the congregations in Texas started earlier by the Rogers brothers.
- 1901 Juan Diaz sent as a missionary to the Cape Verde Islands by the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.
- 1901 Trevecca College opens in Nashville, Tenn., to educate workers for the Pentecostal Mission. Now known as Trevecca Nazarene University.
- 1902 Eastern Nazarene College is opened.
- 1902 Deets Pacific Bible College founded by in Los Angeles. Later moved to Pasadena, where it became Pasadena College. Now Point Loma Nazarene University in San Diego, CA.
- 1903 Missionary work opened in Mexico by the holiness churches of the South.
- 1904 The Holiness Church of Christ created by the union of the Independent Holiness Church and the New Testament Church at a meeting at Rising Star, Texas.
- 1904 Home mission work among Chinese immigrants launched in Los Angeles.
- 1905 The east India field begins when the Church of the Nazarene accepts an offer to align itself with an indigenous mission in Calcutta co-founded by Mrs. Sukhoda Banerjee.
- 1906 The Parkhead Pentecostal Church organized in Glasgow by Rev. George Sharpe. Other holiness congregations formed across Scotland in the ensuing years.
- 1909 The Scottish holiness congregations unite as a single denomination, the Pentecostal Church of Scotland.

Timeframe 2
A Quarter-Century of Consolidation
1896-1922

The consolidations that created the present-day Church of the Nazarene began at the regional level and gradually expanded until the church was established on a national, and then an international, basis. By December 1915, what had once been seven separate holiness denominations, and part of an eighth one, had merged into a single church. In other instances where organic mergers were not effected, so many members of regional holiness associations (one in Texas, another in the Dakotas) entered the Church of the Nazarene that the associations dissolved soon afterward.

- 1896 The Central Evangelical Holiness Association (New England) and the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America (New York) unite their work under the name of the latter. By 1907, the denomination stretched from Nova Scotia to Iowa and had nearly 50 congregations.
- 1904 The New Testament Church of Christ and the Independent Holiness Church merge to form the Holiness Church of Christ. By 1908, it stretched from Georgia to New Mexico, with most of its congregations located along an axis that ran from southeast Arkansas to west Texas.

The Year of Uniting: 1907-1908

- 1907 The First General Assembly of the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene at Chicago, Illinois. This assembly consummated the union of the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America and the Church of the Nazarene, whose leaders had already agreed upon a general framework of governance. Fraternal delegates from the Holiness Church of Christ attended. Phineas F. Bresee and Hiram F. Reynolds were elected general superintendents of the new body.
- 1908 In April, Phineas Bresee visits the headquarters of the Holiness Association of Texas at Peniel, near Greenville. There he organizes a Pentecostal Nazarene congregation and appoints Emily Ellyson as the pastor, prompting dozens of state holiness association members to unite with the Peniel congregation and the Pentecostal Nazarenes.
- 1908 In September, the Pennsylvania Conference of the Holiness Christian Church separates from the church's Indiana Conference and unites with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.
- 1908 In October, the Second General Assembly is held at the Holiness Church of Christ headquarters in Pilot Point, Tex., north of Dallas. Here the Holiness Church of Christ merges with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. Bresee and Reynolds were re-elected and E. P. Ellyson was elected to join them on the Board of General Superintendents. The Pilot Point assembly concluded a year of mergers that began in October 1907. The Sixth General Assembly later selected this date as the denomination's anniversary date.

After 1908

- 1910 Holiness Association of Texas dissolves because most of its members have united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene and the association no longer serves a useful purpose.
- 1915 The Pentecostal Mission, stretching across the Southeast, unites with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene, bringing with it mission work in India, Cuba, Mexico, and South America.
- 1915 Pentecostal Church of Scotland unites with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.
- 1922 Under J. G. Morrison's leadership, key leaders, clergy, and lay people of the Laymen's Holiness Association, located in the Dakotas, unite with the Church of the Nazarene.

Timeframe 3 Toward A More Perfect Union 1911-1928

After the mergers of various holiness churches, the church's leaders sought the inner reality of union by rallying Pentecostal Nazarenes around a common agenda. The Nazarene Publishing House was authorized, along with a denominational paper, *Herald of Holiness*. Hiram F. Reynolds became senior general superintendent in 1915 and took a key role in convincing Nazarenes that a "mission to the world" should be one of the church's highest priorities. John W. Goodwin and R. T. Williams joined the Board of General Superintendents in 1916, while J. B. Chapman emerged as a leading editor and joined them as a general superintendent in 1928. A network of liberal arts colleges, fostered by Chapman, H. Orton Wiley, and a host of regional leaders, also grew.

- 1909 Oklahoma Holiness College established at Bethany, Oklahoma. Other Nazarenes colleges in Texas, Arkansas, and Kansas eventually consolidate with this one to form Bethany- Peniel (later Bethany Nazarene) College, now Southern Nazarene University.
- 1911 Missionary work in Africa begins when Harmon Schmelzenbach, who worked there with another group, became an employee of the church's Board of Foreign Missions.
- 1911 The church's publishing interests consolidated by action of the Third General Assembly, held at Nashville, Tenn.,
- 1911 Much of the Louisiana Conference of the Protestant Methodist Church unites with the Church of Nazarene.
- 1912 Nazarene Publishing House begins operation in Kansas City, Mo. under Rev. C.J. Kinne's leadership.
- 1912 Herald of Holiness begins publication under founding editor Benjamin F. Haynes.
- 1913 *The Other Sheep* magazine begins publication under founding editor C.A. McConnell.

- 1913 Idaho Holiness School established at Nampa, Idaho. Renamed Northwest Nazarene University in 1917.
- 1914 H. R. Reynolds' world-wide tour of the mission fields in Japan, China, India, and Africa generated publicity.
- 1914 Missionary work opened in China.
- 1915 Work on a constitution for a Woman's Missionary Society authorized by the Fourth General Assembly meeting in Kansas City.
- 1915 Pentecostal Mission work of the Southeast united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.
- 1915 Pentecostal Church of Scotland united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.
- 1916 John W. Goodwin and R. T. Williams join Reynolds and E. F. Walker on the Board of General Superintendents following the deaths of P. F. Bresee and W. C. Wilson a few weeks apart in late 1915.
- 1917 Missionary work opened in Peru (South America).
- 1917 Laymen's Holiness Association formed in the Dakotas by conservative Methodists.
- 1917 Seth Rees controversy rocks the denomination and threatens possible schism. About 500 Nazarenes leave the church with Rees.
- 1919 The church's official name shortened to Church of the Nazarene by the Fourth General Assembly.
- 1919 Missionary work opened in Argentina.
- 1919 Organized mission work among American Indians started.
- 1919 Woman's Missionary Society fully recognized. Later known as Nazarene Missions International (NMI).
- 1920 Canadian Nazarene University College formed.
- 1921 World-wide Simultaneous Revival held in all Nazarene churches.
- 1921 Mission work opens in Palestine and Syria.
- 1922 Many members of the Laymen's Holiness Association unite with Church of the Nazarene.

- 1923 The General Board created and authorized to oversee the general budget dollars by the Sixth General Assembly. General Board conducts its first meeting within days of the assembly.
- 1923 The Nazarene Young People's Society authorized.
- 1923 Offering of one hundred thousand dollars raised to reorganize Nazarene Publishing House.
- 1925 Bresee Memorial Hospital opens in Tamingfu, China.
- 1925 A more comprehensive Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital opens in Manzini, Swaziland.
- 1926 J. B. Chapman launches *The Preacher's Magazine*.
- 1926 Missionary work opened in British West Indies, Caribbean.
- 1927 Northern Bible College established at Red Deer, Alberta, in Canada.
- 1928 The General Assembly radically revises the church's Manual in virtually all areas and strengthens the General Board.
- 1928 J. B. Chapman, editor of *Herald of Holiness* and *The Preacher's Magazine*, elected to the Board of General Superintendents.

Timeframe 4 **Persistence Amid Adversity** **1928-1945**

The fourth period of Nazarene history characterized by severe financial crisis. This began in before the mid-1920s and accelerated. This was followed by World War II. Both adversities limited the church's ability to carry out its sense of "mission to the world." "Retrenchment," a policy of closing mission fields, was necessitated by financial difficulties. World war, likewise, limited opportunities for missionary expansion.

Despite these difficulties, Nazarenes continued developing their hospitals in China (Bresee Memorial Hospital) and Swaziland (Raleigh Fitkin Memorial Hospital), and a new hospital opened in India (Reynolds Memorial Hospital). The church also supported a small teaching hospital (the Samaritan Hospital) in Nampa, Idaho, that prepared nurses for missionary assignments abroad.

- 1930 First Easter Offering for World Missions
- 1933 Silver Jubilee Anniversary, celebrating twenty-five years of our church history.

- 1934 Mission work began in Central America with Honduras.
- 1936 Mission works in Alaska started.
- 1938 Reynolds Memorial Hospital opens in Washim, India.
- 1943 Mission Work in Puerto Rico.
- 1944 First Annual Conference of District Superintendents.
- 1945 Hurler Nazarene College opens. Became British Isle Nazarene College in 1955. Now part of Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.
- 1945 A small holiness denomination in Australia, led by A.A.E. Berg, unites with the Church of the Nazarene.
- 1945 Nazarene Theological Seminary opened.
- 1945 “Showers of Blessing” broadcast begins under the auspices of the Nazarene Radio Commission.

Timeframe 5 **Mid-Century Crusade for Souls** **1945-1960**

The post-war era was characterized by an explosion of missionary activity that took the church into new areas, including the Philippines. It also entered Australia and Italy when indigenous works there united with the Church of the Nazarene. The Mid-Century Crusade for Souls (the quadrennial theme for 1948-52 and 1952-56) and other evangelistic efforts characterized the church’s sense of mission to North America and the world.

To maximize its global impact, the denomination committed to providing graduate theological training for ministers when Nazarene Theological Seminary was founded in 1945. Radio broadcasts were authorized and the “Showers of Blessing” program began, soon followed by “La Hora Nazarena” and broadcasts in other languages.

- 1945 Hurler Nazarene College opened. It became British Isle Nazarene College in 1955 (now Nazarene Theological College, Manchester).
- 1945 An indigenous network of holiness churches in Australia affiliates with the Church of the Nazarene.
- 1945 Nazarene Theological Seminary opens.

- 1945 Work in Cuba is restarted.
- 1945 First “Showers of Blessing” radio broadcast.
- 1946 Home mission work begins in Hawaii.
- 1946 The Spanish Department formed at Nazarene Headquarters.
- 1947 First Conference on Evangelism.
- 1948 Church opens work in the Philippines.
- 1948 First Alabaster Box Offering.
- 1948 Indigenous holiness churches in Italy unite with the Church of the Nazarene.
- 1948 Work in Korea restarts.
- 1950 Haiti work starts.
- 1952 International Holiness Mission, a British body with work in southern Africa, unites with Church of the Nazarene.
- 1952 “The Crusade for Souls” adopted as the quadrennial theme and is repeated in the 1956-60 quadrennium.
- 1953 The Spanish Broadcast, “La Hora Nazarena,” begins.
- 1955 Calvary Holiness Church of Great Britain unites with the Church of the Nazarene.
- 1955 Mission work begins in New Guinea.
- 1956 The Taiwan field opens.
- 1958 Gospel Worker’s Church of Canada unites with the Church of the Nazarene.
- 1958 Golden Anniversary Celebration held at Pilot Point, Tex.
- 1958 Church enters Brazil.

Timeframe 6
Toward the Post-War Evangelical Mainstream

1960-1980

The 1960s were a time of world-wide social ferment. World War II had spelled the end of European colonialism, and new post-colonial nations emerged in Africa and Asia in the 1960s. In the U.S., the civil rights movement and the anti-war movement galvanized young people, while those who were disaffected by politics gravitated toward hippie culture. And by the late 60s, there was widespread student unrest around the world.

The church tried hard to reach its own youth. Youth-oriented music groups, like Lost and Found, were formed. Student Mission Corp developed. The Maranatha Church of the Nazarene sought to evangelize hippies with Christian rock music and a worship style attuned to the young.

In the 1970s, urban ministry and compassionate ministry returned to the heart of the church as an aspect of evangelism and a sign of the Kingdom of God at work in our midst. This occurred first through the founding of urban ministries, particularly the Community of Hope in Washington, D.C., and the Manhattan Church of the Nazarene in New York City.

- 1960 Work in Denmark begins.
- 1962 Middle European District organized.
- 1964 Creation of Nazarene Evangelistic Ambassadors—a mission oriented team of college students from the US and Canada.
- 1966 European Nazarene Bible College opens in Switzerland.
- 1967 Nazarene Bible College opens in Colorado Springs.
- 1967 Nazarene Hospital opens in Kudirjip, Papua New Guinea
- 1968 Mount Vernon Nazarene College and Mid-America Nazarene College open.
- 1972 Founding of Community of Hope in Washington, D.C.
- 1974 World Youth Conference in Fiesch, Valais, Switzerland.
- 1975 Lamb's Theatre purchased in Times Square, New York.
- 1976 General Assembly authorizes a commission to study the Church of the Nazarene's international structure.
- 1976 Work in West Africa begins.

Timeframe 7 Era of Internationalization

1976-2003

The 1980 General Assembly accepted *internationalization* as a philosophy to guide the denomination's development. Internationalization was not a blueprint so much as a conviction that national lines should not determine denominational ones. Nazarenes committed themselves to transcending the social and national lines that divide peoples.

The period was one of rapid growth. The church entered more new fields than ever before. Its membership rose from just over 674,000 in 1980 to over 1.4 million members by 2001. New forms of social ministry were institutionalized through the creation of NCM International and NCM USA/Canada. A new graduate school of theology was established in the Philippines. And at the Twenty-fifth General Assembly in 2001, over 40% of the delegates present and voting either spoke English as their second language . . . or did not speak it at all.

- 1977 Neighborhood Christian Center founded in Memphis, Tenn.
- 1980 General Assembly embraces "internationalization" as the operative ideal for future development and creates 15 world regions for the denomination.
- 1982 Association of Nazarene Sociologists of Religion founded.
- 1983 Nazarene work in Southeast Asia begins in Burma.
- 1983 Bresee Institute for Urban Training opens in Los Angeles, California.
- 1984 Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary inaugurated as the church's second graduate school of theology.
- 1984 East Africa work begins with first appointments to Kenya.
- 1985 The ministry order of deacon authorized.
- 1985 The First Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Conference draws nearly 500 participants.
- 1985 Regional councils authorized by the General Assembly.
- 1988 Nigeria's indigenous Church of the Nazarene unites with the international Church of the Nazarene.
- 1993 International Board of Education created.
- 1993 Africa Nazarene University established in Nairobi, Kenya.

- 1997 *Herald of Holiness* and *World Mission* magazines combined into *Holiness Today*, a new church publication for the church's English-readers worldwide.
- 1999 Church of the Nazarene becomes a member of the World Methodist Council.
- 2002 First Global Theology Conference, Guatemala City, Guatemala.