

DEVELOPING

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Some things are worth repeating. Jesus repeated until most of his disciples got it.

This online feature is approaching birthday numero uno. Thanks for joining a conversation, a developing dialogue, for nearly one year. We have changed the name to “Developing” to clarify our intention from the beginning.

We continue to devote this feature toward whomever and whatever is *Developing* in the world of NMI—wherever, whenever, and however they spring up. By *Developing* we mean:

- becoming
- unfolding
- budding
- promising
- dawning
- appearing

Developing does not equal “emergent” in ways that others are attempting to shape churches today. *Developing* is not about disillusionment or frustration with the organized Church. In this feature, we focus on *Developing* people, stories, and community, not on “emergent” church development.

Repeat it again: developing equals becoming and promising. We purpose no other agenda.

Developing envisions life in Christ as biblical, personal, and transformational. *Developing* embraces holy hearts and holy lives in Book-of-Acts movements around the world. *Developing* is about filling forms with new life in the Holy Spirit.

Developing is about praying and pouring fresh grace, fresh wind, fresh fire, and fresh future into the Church of the Nazarene and the Body of Christ. *Developing* sees the Church as hopeful, renewable, and revivable in authentic, biblical holiness: theologically and relationally whole.

Developing qualities and strengths will include: creative, authentic, relational, diverse, energetic, vigorous, future-faithful. *Developing* will also be messy: after all, you and I are part of this.

We welcome you to tell us weaknesses of *Developing* as the column unfolds. Our mutual conversation gazes upward, searches inward, moves outward, and avoids downward.

Developing is about Christlike living. God entered the world in human form to transform. Christian developing leaders enter any context, praying to transform culture through involvement in it.

With mission passion and strategy, *Developing* interacts with any person of any culture, race, generation, economy, or faith-persuasion, especially pre-Christian, unreached, unchurched, post-modern, or post-Christian. In fact, we prefer not to label, but to respect and engage.

Developing will engage others with Christ and the whole gospel. We believe that the global Body of Christ is immersed in the *missio Dei*—the mission of God—and specifically in the great commission of Jesus: to make Christlike disciples in the nations. *Developing* dares to impact motives, attitudes, mindset, worldview, thinking, practices, and disciplines of Christ Jesus and missionary-types such as you and me.

We choose to be and to continue to become fully Christ-ian, developing, mission leaders. We embrace a second year. *Developing*.