

Slide	Narrative
1	<p>Good morning I bring you warm greetings from the Asia Pacific Region, a region that stretches from the mainland of Asia in the north, throughout the more than 33,000 islands of the South Pacific, reaching to the Oceanic lands of Australia and New Zealand in the south. This is a land of geographic diversity matched equally by the diversity of peoples and cultures. Encompassing more than one third of the world's peoples spread across one third of the earth's surface, we are home to 40% of the world's population, 4 of the world's mega cities, and more than 8,000 unreached people groups. We have 100 cities with populations surpassing 1 million wherein less than 3% of claim to be followers of the one true Savior, Jesus Christ.</p>
2	<p>But God is truly doing a new and incredible work throughout our region! As we strive to follow our Lord's example in making Christ-like disciples, we are compelled to pray and seek His direction as we develop strategy and vision in reaching our fields that are truly "white unto harvest."</p>
3	<p>It was a very unique call to prayer that aroused Pastor Vipul Kharat from a deep sleep shortly after midnight on a Sunday morning. Pastor Vipul, who pastors our All Nations Church of the Nazarene in Auckland, New Zealand, a city of more than 1.4 million people, has been a man of prayer and has become known for having an effective prayer ministry. Awakened at such an early hour, Pastor Vipul struggled to understand exactly what the caller was asking. "Are you the pastor who prays for businesses?" the caller asked. "Well, yes," responded Pastor Vipul, "I will be more than happy to set up an appointment to visit with you and pray for your business this next week." The caller was insistent and indicated that next week would not be soon enough.</p>
4	<p>"Can you come tonight?" Pastor Vipul gazed at his clock, reluctant to respond, recognizing that it was almost one in the morning and that he would need to be rested in order to preach in just a very few short hours. Beginning to recognize that all-too-familiar beckoning of the Spirit and with the continued persistence of the caller, Pastor Vipul agreed to visit his business that very night. Taking down the man's address, Pastor Vipul crawled out of bed, dressed, and climbed into his car,</p>
5	<p>answering this call to pray from a man somewhere in the darkness of the Auckland night. Driving into the night, questions flooded Pastor Vipul's mind. Who was this caller? Where was he being called to go? What kind of a business was he being asked to bless? Approaching the address provided by the caller, it became increasingly apparent that this was not an area of</p>
6	<p>Auckland where a pastor should be found at night, nor probably at any time of the day. Stopping along the curbside in front of the address, Pastor Vipul saw the sign overhanging a dark stairwell leading down that gave the name of the business, "The Black Hole." This was definitely no place for a Nazarene Pastor to be found and what kind of a business could he possibly be asked to bless, he had his suspicions.</p>
7	<p>As Pastor Vipul approached the dark, unlit stairwell and began to descend he hesitated, nothing about this situation was good, he should turn around and quickly get out before something bad happened. But then he felt within his spirit a questioning from God, "Vipul, is there any place too dark that you would not go for me and with me?"</p>

8	<p>Descending to the bottom of the dark stairwell, Pastor Vipul opened the door and entered into The Black Hole. His suspicions were immediately confirmed by the lights, sound, and chaos. This was definitely not a place for any pastor, let alone a Nazarene Pastor on a Sunday morning! He wondered, "what on earth have I gotten myself into?" Even though having never met, the business owner "Peter" saw Pastor Vipul enter and welcomed him. Taking him to the stage at the front of the business, Peter took the microphone, quieted the band and yelled loudly, "Hello everybody! This is my pastor, Vipul Kharat, and he has come to pray a blessing on my business!"</p>
9	<p>Pastor Vipul gazed around the hazy, oppressive room, filled with half-drunk partiers and wondered, "how can I pray a blessing on this place?"</p>
10	<p>Once again God's voice spoke to his spirit and directed him to pray for Peter, for his family, and for the Spirit of God Himself to flood that place and the lives of those people. Pastor Vipul lifted up his hands and began to pray just as the spirit directed. When he finished praying, he walked around the room for another hour, stopping at every table to pray individually with those who had found their way to the club that dark night.</p>
11	<p>Finally, weary yet strangely exhilarated, Pastor Vipul ascended out of The Black Hole, made his way to his car and returned home to sleep a few hours before he would be sharing his Sunday message in a much more familiar environment.</p>
12	<p>Two weeks later Pastor Vipul once again received a call; a voice whom he immediately recognized as the early morning caller, Peter. This time the call was quite different. "Pastor Vipul?, this is Peter. I've decided to close my business and I wanted to know where your church is and what time are your services held?" Pastor Vipul was incredulous, could this possibly be the same Peter whom had beckoned him into the darkness of The Black Hole just two weeks earlier? What incredible new thing was God doing? Pastor Vipul enthusiastically explained to Peter where the church was located and welcomed him to come and be a part.</p>
13	<p>Peter did answer the invitation not just himself, but with his family as well. The result has been an incredible life-changing transformation in Christ. Since their very first visit, Peter and his family have rarely missed a service. These days you will find Peter twice a week, mentoring and tutoring youth at their church in after school sessions.</p>
14	<p>The impact of this transformation has spread beyond Peter to his son Tae Huan, who heard about the Nazarene University System and sought application to one of our schools. Unfortunately, due to the late application, it wasn't possible for Tae Huan to be admitted for the upcoming year. He took the International Tertiary Entrance Exam and earned a perfect score. Based on his high school transcripts and exam score, Tae Huan was granted a full scholarship to Harvard University where he is now in his second year. When he arrived in Boston, he was welcomed by members of the Church of the Nazarene in Cambridge and nearby Nashua, NH.</p>
15	<p>I am reminded of Psalm 139, "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.</p>

16	If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.
17	If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.
18	The Asia Pacific Region is home to more than 2,000 languages with many religions but less than 3% followers of Christ. Major religions on our region in addition to Christianity are Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Animism, Shintoism and Taoism. It can definitely be said that we have many "unreached" peoples. But yet these aren't people who are unreached due to geography, but rather separated and unreached because many times we as Christians are fearful of going to people of other faiths who are going though life without the transforming gospel of our Lord.
19	Peter and his family experienced the life-changing transformation of the Gospel because Pastor Vipul was obedient to that call in the night.
20	I want to leave you with this challenge. As Nazarenes we are called to be "Christian," "People of Holiness," and "Missional," as we fulfill this call to be missional here at home and around the world, "Will you be obedient to the leading of the Spirit, even if it takes you into a black hole?"