

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
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Salt for a Dry River

Thoughts from
Southeastern Europe

by Jay and Teanna Sunberg

The trickle of refugees became a stream as family after family returned to Dry River. But devastation greeted their homecoming: two out of every three Kosovar homes had been destroyed as the neighboring army had systematically meted out its own form of ethnic cleansing.

Ten years later, in October 2009, believers from across Kosova gathered in Suhareka, a Muslim town with a Serbian name that means “Dry River”—but they gathered to celebrate a decade of the blessing and growth that grew out of tragedy.

How does God repeatedly accomplish that miracle in our lives? How does He take that which should have destroyed one’s spirit and transform tragedy into triumph? From a mountainside overlooking the Sea of Galilee, Jesus’ words of wisdom flow to a parched humanity thirsting for justice and mercy: “You are the salt of the earth” (Matthew 5:13). To a people beaten down and repressed, this was God’s remedy for community development? Salt?

Undoubtedly, they were simple people, gathered to hear the words from a great teacher. They were men who plowed the earth and pulled fish from the sea to provide for their families. They were women whose rough hands created nourishment out of that offering. For the humanity that leaned in to hear the words of Jesus, salt was something they understood. Just a few kilometers away, the salt-filled Dead Sea provided its healing capabilities. The fresh fish were preserved with that snowy white substance. In their world, salt healed. In their world, salt preserved the good. To simple folks gathered on a

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Elementary Education EMed Naz Schools Continue Reaching Children



Students at four Nazarene schools throughout the Middle East are part of multi-dimensional education that reaches into diverse communities in as many ways possible through education and character-building.

When it opened in the 1950s, Amman Nazarene School (ANS) started small, offering classes for younger students and slowly adding grades as it became financially viable. Today, students from K-10 study in the school in Jordan’s capital, with the hope that someday the education will extend through grade 12. But for older students now occupying classrooms originally intended for much younger ones, the cartoon murals covering the walls have long felt out of place.

A Work and Witness (WNW) team from Chicago helped remedy this in April. While the team installed 14 heat-

ing units and four ceilings and built a safety rail to protect children from neighborhood traffic, they also polished hallways and repainted the classrooms with new, more mature colors and curtains. Though it was the school’s Easter Break, 20 students visited the campus each day to help paint and move sand piles, inspiring them to make a pledge: in 15 years, they want to return as a group to do their own work project.

Around the same time, 35 of Eurasia’s regional leaders helped spruce up Jordan’s neighboring Zarqa Nazarene School. More than 60 years old, the

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First Arabic Nazarene TV Show to Premeire

Beirut, Lebanon—After a year of planning, praying and producing, the Nazarene Broadcasting and Communications Ministry in the Middle East is premiering the first-ever Nazarene television show on the largest Christian channel in the Middle East this month.

The team just finished production on 26 episodes—a complete first season—of “*Aktar Min Kalam*” (“More Than Words”), a 30-minute program that contains interviews, discussions, music and Biblical teaching on a different topic each week.

The show will start airing on SAT-7 on Monday, November 9, and will re-run

four times each week. “Let us pray that the Lord will use this program to allow many to experience His love through Jesus Christ,” said broadcast director and host Ayman Kafrouny, “and may this step help the ministry of our church to grow in this part of the world.” ♦

“Aktar Min Kalam”
(SAT-7 Arabic)

Mondays at 9 p.m.
Tuesdays at 3 a.m.

Wednesdays at 1 a.m.,
Wednesdays at 7 a.m.
Sundays at 2:30 p.m.



'Salt': Christ's Words Find Life in Kosova

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mountainside, "You are the salt of the earth" must have carried a revolutionary message.

Today, many of us live in places of destruction, in societies where hope has long dried up, and where people suffer. For us, the metaphor in Matthew 5 resonates with a practical commission to act intentionally and to minister with the limited resources we have at hand. We are the salt of our communities, and as salt, our purpose is to be a healing balm in the hand of God. We are the salt of our neighborhoods; our purpose is to preserve the good wherever it can be found. We are the salt of our families, and because salt makes slippery paths safe, so we create havens of safety for those who cry for sanctuary.

Sitting in a hall in Suhareka, celebrating a decade of miracles, the words of Jesus resonate loudly with the believers.

You are the salt of Suhareka. Go and do what you were called to do. Be salt. And, as you live as salt, make others thirsty for that which quenches your parched soul—the wellspring of eternal life. ♦

Romania Celebrates Local Minister's Service



Local leaders in Sighisoara, Romania pray with Magda Balaban, second from left, as she announces her relocation to Bucharest after 10 years of ministry. She remains one of the district's few ordained ministers.

by Jonathan Philips
Southeastern Europe

Sighisoara, Romania—On Sunday, 4 October, the Sighisoara Church of the Nazarene honored Rev. Magda Balaban—who has served in Sighisoara for the past 10 years—and blessed her as she enters a new chapter of her life.

Balaban came to Sighisoara in September 1999, following her graduation from European Nazarene Bible College in Germany. Her original assignment was to work in the Veritas ministry for disabled persons. In time, she devoted full-time to church-related ministries at the Sighisoara church. Her ministry focused on working with the senior adults who attend the church and the daily elderly program at the church.

Balaban's ministry has also included leading weekday prayer meetings and Bible studies, translating sermons and

literature, serving on the District Advisory Board, teaching children's church, and teaching American students who come with the Romanian Studies Program.

After preaching the morning message, Balaban announced to the congregation that she has accepted a job in Bucharest. Balaban, an ordained deacon in the Church of the Nazarene, is like many ministers on the Southeastern Europe Field who must rely financially on employment outside the church.

After an all-church dinner following the service, those gathered viewed a PowerPoint presentation celebrating Balaban's 10 years in Sighisoara. Many offered thanks for her service, and the church board presented her with a piece of Transylvanian pottery, a painting of Sighisoara, and a Sighisoara mug. As one person said, "The Sighisoara Church's loss is the Bucharest Church's gain." ♦

Schools: Middle Eastern Nazarenes Carry On 50-Year-Old Ministry

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school had never welcomed a WNW team before, and the repairs and freshly-painted walls have made a lasting impact on the staff and students. "They were inspired to see people having so much fun and getting a lot of satisfaction out of spending their time serving the school and the community, the students and the Lord," said Rod Green, who coordinates Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) for the Middle East.

The two teams represent the newest wave of support for a ministry that started more than half a century ago and has become one of the most diverse outreaches on the Eastern Mediterranean Field. Nazarene schools, also located in Beirut, Lebanon and Damascus, Syria, all draw children from a wide range of ethnic and religious backgrounds into a solid education that includes exposure to the Bible and emphasizes loving one another. They minister to middle-class, underprivileged and refugee families. All benefit from the support of the global church through NCM, who provides basic supplies and enables Nazarene Child Sponsorship (NCS) to further the opportunities for students. And even in

the midst of financial challenges, the communities continue to see Christlike character developing in those whose lives they touch.

The school in Beirut has been rebuilt in a number of places following wars, and despite the current economic struggles of the city, each student still brings \$1 a month as an "offering of love" to help those needier than themselves. The funds help cover tuition for families unable to afford it, and helped 15 families this year.

"It's a church that rarely closes or rests."

Rod Green
EMED NCM Coordinator

Last Christmas, the students in Beirut made gift boxes full of small items and attended a party for 50 former street children who live together in a group home run by a local evangelical non-profit organization. This year, the students are also working toward sponsoring their own child somewhere else in the world, choosing another area that NCS supports. "A place once caught in the middle of hate and violence is a place teaching children the power of love," Green said.

When the school day ends in Damascus, the ministry is just beginning. The school continues to welcome Iraqi students to the sanctuary in the afternoons—even though they can't attend traditional classes, they continue to come for a few hours each day for remedial instruction, spiritual encouragement and a snack. Sudanese students arrive later for more activities, and four evenings a week, volunteer doctors provide care and referrals to 240 patients a month through a free clinic located on campus. "It is natural for patients to leave the clinic and join prayer meetings already in progress, to seek spiritual healing to go along with the physical care and medicines they have just received for free," said Green. "It's a church that rarely closes or rests."

The presence of the schools has become a source of hope in the midst of what is, for many, uncertainty. "For many parents, the schools are providing an intangible service," said Green, "an invisible quality they can't quite discern, but know they want for their children." ♦

To read more information about the Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Schools or watch a video about them, visit ncmme.blogspot.com

Ukraine Broadcasts Create Awareness, Support Drug Rehabilitation Ministry

Vinnitsa, Ukraine—It all started with a short news report—a local station in Vinnitsa, Ukraine interviewed the city's Nazarene drug and alcohol rehabilitation center about its purpose.

"We saw a powerful response [to the interview]," said Vladimir Masyuk. "We saw media providing a great opportunity to respond to this major need in our area."

Since then, the team has embraced broadcasting outlets to increase awareness. Every day, a 15 to 30 second clip informing people about the rehab ministry airs on three TV channels that cover Vinnitsa and its county. Each month, the team provides a 20 to 30 minute broadcast that discusses problems associated with addictions in Ukraine, ways to resolve them through rehabilitation centers and how the lives of former addicts have been transformed. These air on two TV channels in the Vinnitsa area and periodically on TV news specials for AIDS awareness, drug abuse prevention or a youth emphasis. Live 30-minute radio programs each month allow people to call in with questions about rehabilitation and continue to support the growth of the ministry.

"Every day we receive up to a dozen phone calls after the TV programs," said Masyuk. "People can see those who have been freed from addictions, so new people ask for help. They come to us if they are addicts, or they bring addicts."

Those who come are people like 32-year-old Andrej Tschepita, who was addicted to drugs for 15 years. His parents took him to hospitals and doctors, but it was always less than a day before he was using again. The addiction led to stealing to get more money for drugs; eventually his wife left him, taking their son with her.

Andrej's parents saw a television advertisement about a rehabilitation center in Vinnitsa called The Father's House, a Nazarene ministry that addressed the spiritual, social and psychological aspects of addiction and offered hope.

Andrej took a chance on the program in December 2008. He completed it in six months, then was given the chance to stay and serve in the rehab center.

"I am grateful to God and the Church of the Nazarene," said Andrej, "for a new life, for freedom, for the opportunity to learn the truth and to serve people." ♦

Netherlands to Host NEF NYC



The Netherlands District is thrilled to announce that preparations for the Northern Europe Field (NEF) Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) from 28 December 2010 to 2 January 2011 are underway, and several promotional materials are now available online. Download the postcard or watch the video at:

www.nycnef.com. The team would love to host a large group, and is preparing for 450 participants. Online registration will be available beginning 1 February 2010. Watch for more information soon!

a few CHANGES to note:

FRANCE DISTRICT

Eurasia welcomes **Brian and Erin Ketchum** as the newest members of the France District ministry team, where they will provide support for the development of the church in France from Paris. Both were raised on the mission field, Brian in Haiti and Martinique, and Erin (Browning) on Eurasia's Eastern Mediterranean Field.

CIS FIELD

In order to focus on his passion for planting churches, **Bob Skinner** is stepping back from his role as CIS Field Strategy Coordinator. British Isles native **Clive Burrows** will step in as "Acting FSC" for two-to-three years. Burrows has served as a missionary, a college professor, a pastor and a District Superintendent. Skinner will retain his responsibilities with church planting and will continue to coordinate the CIS Field partnership.

SOUTH ASIA FIELD

Due to visa complications, South Asia Field Strategy Coordinator **Ron and Dianna Gilbert** will be relocating from Sri Lanka to Büsingen, Germany where Ron will continue serving as South Asia FSC, and will also head a new mobilization effort as the Regional Coordinator of the "Power of One" Initiative beginning 1 January. His wife, Dianna, will also be serving in the Eurasia Regional Office in an administrative capacity.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN FIELD

Following a two-year provisional arrangement, **Gary Moore** will continue to serve as Acting Field Strategy Coordinator for the Western Mediterranean Field for four more years, and will continue to work from his home in Yuba City, California, USA. **Kyle Himmelwright**, missionary to Portugal, has been appointed Assistant Field Strategy Coordinator for the Western Mediterranean Field beginning 1 October. All field-related business can be directed to Himmelwright, who will ensure that field communication and planning needs are met.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Trino Jara will begin serving as the Regional Coordinator of Children's Ministries beginning 1 January. He will be responsible for Eurasia's "Connecting a New Generation" focus, Child Sponsorship, and Child Development from his current residence in Ukraine, where a team of national and expatriate staff will assist him.

COMMUNICATIONS

In order to pursue full-time graduate studies, **Simone Finney** is stepping down from her role as Eurasia Communications Coordinator in December. **Dennis Mohn**, Assistant Pastor of the Koog an de Zaan church in the Netherlands, will fill the role beginning 1 December. Mohn will continue to live and minister in the Netherlands with his wife, Lara, and will manage a team in Büsingen, and will also engage satellite team members across the region.

throughout
EURASIA

South Asian Camps See Youth Arise, Shine and Set an Example

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh—On the third night of camp, 85 young people from throughout Sri Lanka gathered around the campfire to dedicate themselves to living a “holy life in Christ and show our characters to others to follow Jesus.” Also, they said, “our life will be salt and light as a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.”

Gathered in Hatton, Sri Lanka from 1-4 September for a camp built around the theme, “Arise and Shine,” the youth split into three groups named “salt,” “light” and “mountain,” and participated in prayer and worship, Bible workshops and games. South Asia Nazarene Youth International (NYI) representative Milton Madhu came from Bangladesh as the main speaker.

“In this special youth camp, 25 non-Christian youth participated, and among them, 80 percent accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior,” said Sri Lanka NYI President Kobu. “Most of the Christian youngsters dedicated their life to serve God as much as possible. This is the victory of the youth camp.”

From 24-25 September, Bangladesh held the third in a series of two-day seminars for young people on the district to focus on Paul’s exhortation to Timothy: “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young.” The groups focused on what it means to “set an example for the believers,” particularly in speech, faith and purity. Small group Bible studies allowed the participants to find encouragement in Timothy’s life.



Photo courtesy Milton Madhu

South Asia NYI representative Milton Madhu preaches in northern Bangladesh. “Youth have been committed to leading the prayerful life because prayer is the only way to build the ultimate communication with the Lord,” he said.

About 109 NYI members from different churches throughout northern Bangladesh participated at the Nilphamary gathering in September, on course with 103 who gathered in Birol from 15-16 July and 63 who had attended at another Nilphamary site from 2-3 June.

“Some of the youth presented their testimonies which encouraged others youth to lead their life for Christ,” said Madhu. “Now these youths are committed and they dedicated their life for building and extending His kingdom.” ♦



Sri Lankan youth gather for seminars at a youth camp in Hatton. “I learned more and more about Jesus and the Christian life in the youth camp and I have committed myself to serve God as a full-time worker in the future,” said one young person.

The Other White House: Danish Youth Start New Community Life

by Marte Samuelstuen
Eurasia Communications

Greve, Denmark—When the Greve Frikirke Church of the Nazarene, located in Greve, Denmark, sought to restart their youth group, they also examined their overall mindset of youth ministry. They saw great potential for a community home in a building that is lovingly referred to as, ‘The White House’, because, well, the house is painted white.

Greve Frikirke owns The White House and is in the process of finishing renovations, the bulk of which took about three months to complete and included installing a new kitchen, floors, insulation, windows, and doors, as well as painting nearly every surface. Now, there are five residents in this home who are not only sharing life together but are opening up their home to the young people in the area.

On 15 August, Anders Holm Pedersen, Catrine Hansen, Jesper Ørsøe, Lars Ørsøe, and Signe Bollerup moved into The White House. All five members of the home are between the ages of 20-22 and are currently studying or training for their future vocations. Signe Bollerup and Lars Ørsøe both recently finished a semester of classes at European Nazarene College in Büsingen, Germany and returned to their home church to utilize their theological training in this new approach to youth ministry.

The White House began their ministry with a housewarming party on 16 August, and since then, they’ve hosted youth in their home every Monday night. All of the youth work of Greve Frikirke is now located at The White House where “a strong fellowship” is being established, said Bollerup, by having “a place where young people can meet together that is always open to them.”

Although the residents of The White House all have different responsibilities between work and studies, they try to eat dinner together as well as dream up goals for what their home could offer in the future. “We hope that more people will use the house beyond our Monday night gatherings,” said Bollerup. “We’d also like to partner with other churches in the area to start a monthly youth service.” Future plans also include utilizing their home for offering homework help, group cooking classes as well as music lessons.

“We’re just beginning, but we’ve had some good events where we’ve been able to meet some really cool young people who we hope to see more of in the future,” said Bollerup. “The most important thing, to us, is that there’s a place that is always open to show that church is more than just one or two days a week.” ♦

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.”

Hebrews 13:3

Upcoming Events

28-29 November • Field Strategy
Coordinator Meetings
Büdingen, Germany

30 November - 2 December • Regional
Advisory Council Meetings
Büdingen, Germany

3-5 December • Eurasia Education
Coordinator Meetings
Büdingen, Germany

District Assemblies

November • All Districts, Pioneer Areas
on Eastern Mediterranean Field

November • All Districts on Western
Mediterranean Field

November • All Districts, Pioneer Areas
on Southeastern Europe Field

January • All Districts on India Field

January • Nepal and Sri Lanka Districts

London Crew Launches Breakfast Church



While children participate in their own activities, adults enjoy an interactive service at Fresh Ground, located in the Thomas Memorial Church in Battersea, London.

London—With a sideboard spread with coffee, croissants and cereal, the Thomas Memorial Church in Battersea, London kicked off its latest venture on 11 October: Breakfast Church. In an attempt to live as a “church with a difference,” the weekly interactive worship service includes free food and discussion-oriented fellowship, plus games and activities for children, an appealing offer for the middle-class community in which the church is located. “With Breakfast Church we are aiming to provide time and space for people to explore and discuss issues of life and faith,” the promotional flyer explains. “We are a Christian community looking at ways in which we can better serve and interact with local people.” ♦



photos courtesy Jason Nike

Pastor Jason Nike brews coffee before the initial Breakfast Church opening. The interactive service allows local families and individuals to share life and explore faith in a comfortable setting.

Prayer Requests

- Nazarene Missions International (NMI) encourages Nazarenes to join Christians around the world in prayer on November 9, 2008. The International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church (IDOP) provides opportunity for Christians worldwide to focus on those suffering for their Christian faith.
- Pray for continued strength and inspiration for those serving in the Middle East’s schools and media ministries. Pray that their work is able to show the love of God to those who need it.
- Pray for the current personnel changes in Eurasia, for those taking on new positions and for the local churches that will be affected by these changes. Pray that unity and a strong common mission will make the transitions smooth and enable the church to better serve the world.
- Pray for the team of young people in the Netherlands who are planning for the upcoming Northern Europe Field youth conference, and for young people across the region who continue to seek new ways of participating in the Kingdom.
- Pray for the support and resources for London’s Fresh Ground team to continue transforming their church into a place where people can openly seek God together.

Where Worlds Meet is the monthly e-newsletter for the Eurasia Region of the Church of the Nazarene. To subscribe, please e-mail the editor at whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org

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