

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
YEAR 6, ISSUE 6 • SEPTEMBER 2009

Many, Many Thanks!

A Note from Eurasia's
Regional Director
by Gustavo Crocker

July was a special time for the Crocker family. After the busyness and intensity of the General Assembly and Conventions, we drove from Orlando, Florida to Kansas City for Rachel's extensive ankle surgery on July 6. The surgery went well and she is currently mid-way into her long recovery. Four days later, I traveled to Guatemala to bid farewell to my father who left us and went to be with his Lord and Savior. Dad was rushed to Intensive Care on July 1 (in the middle of General Assembly) and passed away on Friday, July 10. In spite of the sadness of his death, we had a wonderful time celebrating the life of a great churchman, church planter, and follower of Jesus Christ.

The following weekend I took my oldest daughter, Raquel, to her new home in Boston, where she will be working after graduating from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and, to end the farewells, two weeks ago Rachel and I took our youngest daughter, Beth, to MidAmerica Nazarene University where she will start her college studies.

While this has been a time of stress, grief, departures, and change, we are so thankful to God for His faithfulness, grace and peace during this time. We are also thankful to you, His church, for the prayers and support that we have felt during these days. In the midst of it all, we have sensed God's perfect peace, a peace that passes all understanding.

Many, many thanks to you for your love and prayers. God's grace has been sufficient and we face the days ahead with much joy and expectation.

In Him,

Gustavo and Rachel Crocker

INTO THE LAND



Participants With Projects Caleb and Isaiah Reflect on Initial Eurasia Missions Ventures

When she moved to Spain from México, it took Irene Quiñonez eight months to make friends with Alma*. When the Spanish woman was comfortable enough to bring her daughters to a Christmas dinner at one of the Nazarene Churches in Madrid, Spain, Quiñonez rejoiced—finally, a beginning.

For eight months, she'd been greeting the woman and her daughters in the street, often to no response. Eight months of silence inspired eight months of prayer, and when the chance came to help Alma's daughters learn English through a summer club, the friendship began. Since then, the two enjoyed sharing coffee and talking together each week.

For Quiñonez, a volunteer missionary from Tijuana, México, it was one of several relationships over the past

two years that completely redefined her idea of ministry. "When I left México I thought that you could just evangelize people with a Bible or a tract in your

"In Spain I learned that you need to have a relationship with people. They start seeing Christ's love and they ask, 'Why are you so different? What's going on?' and they start becoming curious and begin to appreciate who you are."

Irene Quiñonez, Mexico

hand," said Quiñonez, "but being here in Spain I learned that you need to have a relationship with people... When they start seeing Christ's love they ask, "Why are you so different? What's going on?" And they start becoming curious and begin to appreciate who you are."

Even though she spoke the language, Spain was a whole new world for Quiñonez and the other volunteer missionar-

ies that came from South and Central America in 2007. Eight of them, assigned to churches in Madrid, Barcelona, Catania and Florence, comprised the first wave of Project Caleb, a partnership that formed in 2004 to both mobilize missionaries from outside North America and

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Caleb/Isaiah: Initial Eurasia Teams Return to South, Central America

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help revive churches in the post-Christian nations of Western Europe.

It was an experiment to see how feasible it was for the Mexico and Central America (MAC) and South America (SAM) regions to send missionaries, something they'd never done before. "The idea was to encourage and motivate young missionaries from Latin America to go and serve through a Nazarene system rather than joining the scores of para-church mission agencies in Latin America," said Eurasia Regional Director Gustavo Crocker, who started the dream with the late Bruno Radi.

Caleb hopefuls went through extensive training on their home regions for a year before coming to Eurasia. In the end, eight were chosen: Jorge David del Ángel (México), Irene Quiñonez Soto (México), María Eugenia Rodríguez (México), Vanessa Cruz Blandino (Nicaragua), Jean Carlo (Brazil), Jessica Torres (Argentina) and Pablo and Viviana Tello (Argentina).

Teams arrived in August 2007, and spent one week training with Kyle and Jayme Himmelwright, missionaries to Portugal, before being traveling to the churches that would host them for two years as they worked to establish cell groups and plant new churches alongside current ones.

The Madrid teams worked steadily to develop Christian Family Centers (CFCs) throughout the city, managing houses where people could join Bible studies, discipleship lessons or tutoring sessions for schoolchildren. They visited nursing homes, schools and friends of friends, and helped with district events like summer camps, children's activities and screenings of the Jesus Film.

"The district changed because the Caleb teams worked full-time, door-to-door, making contacts, working with children,

pouring themselves out," said Noemi Fernandez, who helped host the teams in Spain. "People living in the country must work to survive and do not have much time to evangelize as the team did."

The Alcalá de Henares church has re-opened, growing from eight to 25 members. Sixteen CFCs now exist in Spain, three new mission points have been established and seven churches have been trained and equipped for children's camps. The teams built relationships with hundreds of people through English classes and academic tutoring, and the district received more new members this past year than they had ever received in the history of the Church of the Nazarene in Spain.

"Spain is one of the least evangelical countries in the world with .4% evangelical Christians," said Mark Ryan, missionary to Spain. "The Caleb missionaries confronted a culture and society drastically different from their home countries. Through prayer, creativity, determination, personal relationships they not only were able to bring new believers to Christ, but equip the churches of Spain to harvest the thousands of seeds planted throughout Madrid, Seville, Barcelona and Zaragoza."

In Catania, Italy the team began a community center, offering everything from classes in English, sewing, painting, Bible exploration and computer to a soccer club. In Florence, Pablo and Viviana Tello worked with six small groups to encourage growth and discipleship, and assisted with Sunday School, youth ministry, missions, worship, preaching, visiting, evangelism and leadership, as well as exploring choreography, drama and concerts as new ways to share the gospel.

"Project Caleb simultaneously showed the type of commitment necessary to develop significant and genuine relationships with Europeans and the type of

fruit that can come when our leaders' time is freed up from the restraints of bi-vocationalism," said Kyle Himmelwright, missionary to Portugal. "These teams were able to pour themselves into developing authentic relationships with people and many of them were able to break down some of the stereotypes that Europeans have about the immigrant population and vice versa."

Simultaneously, D. Martínez (El Salvador), E. Raymundo (México) and J.B. Cruz (Guatemala) were deployed to the Middle East as the first Isaiah Project team, where they worked to build relationships and serve their neighbors.

"We may not see a huge transformation right now, but we're sure God used us to plant seeds over there," said Cruz. "I just know they were sensitive to whatever we were saying. I know God touched them, but we were just instruments, just tools moving from one place to another."

On 31 July, the teams returned to enthusiastic churches who supported them from afar through giving and prayer. They will continue serving in various ministries throughout SAM and MAC.

"When I was a teenager I wanted to work in something like this, but the Church of the Nazarene didn't have anything for [people in my region]," said Rodríguez. "I feel that I'm a new person, that I'm different; my mind is open, my world is bigger now. I have come back to Mexico to share what I did in Spain, but also to prepare more teenagers who feel like I used to." ♦

There's more! Check out engagemagazine.com for interviews, reflections and videos of the participants!

Jerusalem Welcomes Children for Summertime Day Camp

Jerusalem, Israel—From 10-14 August, a Nazarene-hosted morning camp for children in East Jerusalem welcomed between 45 and 50 Arab children from several different religious backgrounds each day, with about 60 cycling through during the week. Three volunteers from Nazareth led songs and the story time in Arabic, while two from Indiana, USA helped with crafts, games and organization.

"It really felt like synergy and the whole was much greater than the work or contribution of any one individual," said Philip Rodebush, who works with the Nazarene Church in Jerusalem.

On Friday, the group invited the children and their parents to a family festival, and were pleasantly surprised when more than 50 children and 30-40 parents attended. As the program finished, the team gave backpacks to children who had come during the week after a "blessing of the backpacks" and a prayer for the new school year. Afterwards, many parents thanked the team for blessing their children that week. ♦



LEAVING THE BUILDING

Joined for the first time, a group of Dutch and N. Irish youth take church to the streets.



photos by Nars Ferf Jentink

Dutch and Northern Irish youth roam the streets in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, cleaning up the streets and offering to assist neighbors. “The weekend was a real wake-up call to a lot of people, including myself,” said Andrew Clark, a young person from Carrickfergus. “We realised the potential we have as a youth to do great things.”

Initially, the enthusiasm of the Dutch youth seemed to be received with suspicion. It was the first time the young people in Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland had hosted the group from Zaanstad, Netherlands, and the cross-cultural evening service on Friday, 21 August was new territory for everyone.

But as the Dutch band and drama/dance team contributed to the evening, “[the Dutch enthusiasm] proved to be contagious,” said Dennis Mohn, youth pastor of the Dutch group. “As the worship service passed they were dancing and singing along as one group.”

It was an encouraging start to a partnership weekend between young people from two Nazarene churches, who gathered to demonstrate a concept: “The church has left the building.” The weekend’s events were designed to encourage them to step into the community and live as the hands and feet of Christ.

Sixty young people spread through the Carrickfergus neighborhood on Saturday in groups of four or five, washing street signs, sweeping sidewalks, cleaning playgrounds and helping people remove bulky waste. It was met with astonishment and support by the community, who continued to ask why the young people were doing all these things. The consistent answer? “We like to help!”

In the end, a pile of trash bags, old furniture, broken fridges, mattresses,

mirrors and old beds joined a stack of used work gloves, shovels, brooms and used cloths while the group moved on: the evening was family celebration time. Bouncing castles, a barbeque, live music, face painting, and other activities gave the community a way to celebrate their new connections with the young people.

Several youth were astonished at the impact cleaning and hosting a barbecue had on the neighbors. “I never thought that I would learn so much about what God can do through me,” said Madelon Faber, a Dutch youth. “Even a small gesture can have great impact!”

It made many of the participants rethink what outreach means.

“Our young people mostly thought of evangelism as preaching the gospel, altar calls, visitor-friendly services, asking people if they are saved and if not, making them repent,” said Mohn. “That’s what they thought was expected of them. But on Saturday, many of our young people experienced that ‘only’ serving others reaches beyond verbal communication.”

Following the family celebration, the youth groups gathered for a spontaneous worship session. Dave Schnitter, youth pastor at Carrickfergus, asked if anyone would like to share a short testimony. One after another, both Dutch and Northern Irish youth stood and shared how they saw people change—and how others impacted them personally.

“My hope was that many of the young people involved would catch the bug for evangelism, worship, outreach, justice, and serving people,” said Schnitter. “The weekend gave our entire youth ministry an enormous push.”

Sunday departure was difficult for the group, but some young people immediately booked tickets to see one another again. The two groups are already planning to partner in the summer of 2010 to impact another city, and are confident that this weekend will continue to remind them of the unity Christ makes possible.

“The weekend with the Dutch people was the best time I’ve had in church since I became a Christian,” said Connor Patterson of the Carrickfergus church.

“Many new friendships were made, many new insights gained, and many people reached,” said Mohn. “A new movement found its start.” ♦



Piles of trash attest to a day of hard work as girls from Northern Ireland and the Netherlands head to their Saturday evening community barbecue.

Meet Middendorf

Eurasia's New Jurisdictional General Superintendent (GS) has been serving in the highest elected office of the Church of the Nazarene since 2001. We recently asked him about ministry, alternate professions and other essential topics.

Eurasia Personnel Updates

Rev. Thomas Güting

of Frankental, Germany accepted his election to Eurasia's Regional Advisory Council (RAC) as a representative of the Northern Europe Field. He will serve for four years until the next General Assembly.

Joel and Sara Mullen

are relocating from Büsingen, Germany to Moncalieri, Italy this month. This will be their new base for ministry in the local Nazarene church there as well as on the Italy District. They request prayer for their residence visas to be granted for Italy, that their adoption process would go smoothly despite the move, and that a new generation of pastors and leaders would be called, equipped and empowered for ministry in Italy.

Follow Joel and Sara online at web.mac.com/joelmullen/italy

Doug and Jennifer Mann

are moving from Albania to Kosovo this month, where they will support church growth in the capital and a small town in the countryside. The family requests special prayer for their children, three-year old Jonathan (this is his third international move) and 1-year-old Sarah, as they settle into life in a new country. Pray for Doug and Jen as they fulfill their ministry roles coming out of language study. Pray for a church building in the capital and for volunteers in the village church.

Follow Doug, Jen and family online at www.mann-ministry.info

Pakistan District

would appreciate prayer for a leadership change it's undergoing. In a meeting with South Asia Field Strategy Coordinator Ron Gilbert and the Pakistan District Advisory Board on August 1, 2009, District Superintendent Alexander Robert resigned from his position as District Superintendent and Chairman of the Church in Pakistan, effective immediately. Rev. Mehmood Bhatti was appointed as Country Coordinator and Chairman of the Church and ministries in Pakistan until a new District Superintendent is either elected or appointed.

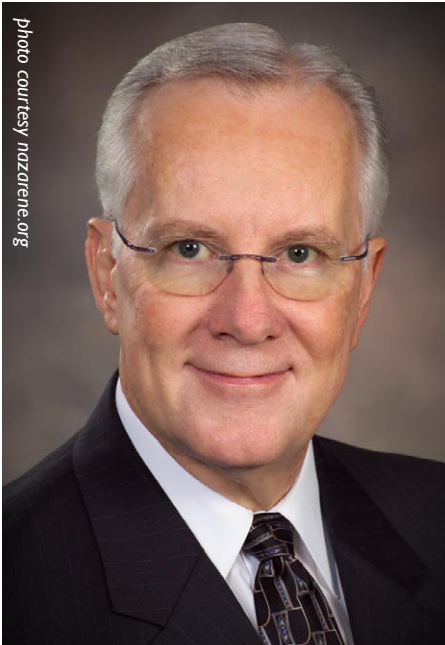


photo courtesy nazarene.org

Where Worlds Meet: You've been a GS for eight years. Where else have you served?

Jesse Middendorf: I have served four regions: South America, Mexico and Central America, Africa, and Asia-Pacific. I have loved every one of them deeply!

WWM: What's your outlook on the next two years with Eurasia?

JM: I am looking forward to these two years. I enjoy meeting Nazarenes everywhere I travel. This is a wonderful family, and we are remarkably alike in so many ways. Our message and our mission are the two things that give us such a rich fellowship. I look forward to making new friends and to seeing the church at work in the wide, rich variety of cultures and world areas that make up the Eurasia Region. The only thing I dread is the prospect that after two years, I will have to say "goodbye." My wife and I form such a deep attachment with each region that we wish we could just stay there!

WWM: What would you like people on the region to know about you?

JM: I have a passionate desire for us to bring the world to Christ and into an experience of deep and loving relationship with Him through the Holy Spirit. Also, that I am married to the love of my life, Susan.

We celebrated 45 years of marriage last June. I hope everyone gets to meet her.

WWM: If you weren't a full-time minister, what profession would you have chosen?

JM: I seriously considered medicine as an alternative, but also loved aviation. I still fly a plane occasionally, but do not do any surgery!

WWM: What's something most people don't know about being a General Superintendent?

JM: It is the most exciting, most rewarding, most tiring, most frightening job I have ever had. The fear is in having so much to do and never quite feeling adequate, and the joy is in knowing that the only explanation for my being in this position is the Holy Spirit.

WWM: If you were to live outside of the USA for a year, where would you choose and why?

JM: There are several places my wife and I have felt we could live. Many of them felt like home when we were there. Argentina was one place, China was another, Papua New Guinea was another, several places in Africa were appealing. The places that appealed the most had a vibrantly effective church reaching into the culture with great effectiveness. I am always drawn to places where the Gospel is transforming cultures.

WWM: What's the most important transformation you hope to see in the Nazarene Church?

JM: I want us to be so utterly transformed by the grace of God, both in persons and as a church, that our walk with Him becomes compelling to others. I believe we must learn how to articulate the deepest truths in the most compelling way possible for 21st century people, always being firmly grounded in the Scriptures, and unapologetic about our message, our theology.

WWM: Anything else to add?

JM: I can hardly wait to be on every part of the Eurasia Region. It will be a special privilege. ♦

Summer Kids' Camps in Ukraine Minister to a Mixture of Needs

Daily swims were one of the highlights for the 120 children camping on the Sea of Azov in Millytopyl, Ukraine, especially since they came from all over the country—Kiev, Vinnitsa, Selishe, Vapnyarka, Odessa, Turbov.

Ten people from Lima, Ohio, USA worked hand in hand with about 40 volunteers and counselors from the churches in Ukraine to minister to the children they'd come to know through various ministries the church supports throughout the country.

The camp focused on Ephesians 6 and "the armor of God," focusing each day on a different piece of spiritual armor. Kids and adults enjoyed worshipping together during the evening services, and afterwards, they met in family groups to discuss the events of the day and message of the evening.

"The whole camp was a great experience," wrote Josh and Robyn Allen, missionaries to Ukraine, in their blog, "and God met with us there!"

In August, volunteers from the church in Kiev joined with a group from the Netherlands team up with a Nazarene foundation that works with disabled children and their families in the city of Chernovsky. In the end, 22 children attended the camp with 80 people, adults

and children combined.

In some cases, complete families attended with their handicapped children, vacationing together as a family for the first time.

"We are so thankful to be a part of a church that strives to care for everyone, regardless of their creed, color, or physical ability," wrote the Allens. ♦

For videos of both camps, check out joshrobynruussia.blogspot.com



photo courtesy Josh and Robyn Allen
Campers in Millytopyl enjoy songs with hand motions during an evening service near the sea.



photo courtesy Josh and Robyn Allen
Children from the Church of the Nazarene's many ministries in Ukraine gathered at the Sea of Azov for a country-wide summer camp focused on fun, fresh air and what it means to wear the armor of God.

MWRC Releases First Volume of New Wesley/Methodist Studies Series

by Geordan Hammond
Co-Editor, Wesley and Methodist Studies
Manchester, England—The Manchester Wesley Research Centre (MWRC) based at Nazarene Theological College in Manchester, England, and Didsbury Press, the academic publishing imprint of Nazarene Theological College, are pleased to announce the launch of a new peer-reviewed annual series entitled Wesley and Methodist Studies (WMS).

WMS publishes scholarly essays that examine the life and work of John and Charles Wesley, their contemporaries (proponents or opponents) in the 18th century Evangelical Revival, their historical and theological antecedents, their successors in the Wesleyan tradition, and studies of the Wesleyan and Evangelical traditions today. Its primary historical scope is the eighteenth century to the present; however, WMS will publish essays that explore the historical and theological antecedents of the Wesleys (including work on Samuel and Susanna Wesley), Methodism, and the Evangelical Revival.

WMS will be published annually with a dual, broad focus on both history and theology. Its aim is to present significant scholarly contributions that shed light on historical and theological understandings of Methodism broadly conceived. Essays within the thematic scope of WMS from the disciplinary perspectives of literature, philosophy, education, and cognate disciplines are welcome.

Although WMS volume one has been published through the support of the MWRC, WMS is now a collaborative project of the MWRC and The Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History, Oxford Brookes University.

This volume can be purchased by contacting Didsbury Press at didsburypress@nazarene.ac.uk, by calling +44 (0) (161) 445.3063, or visiting www.nazarene.ac.uk/Didsbury-Press_001.htm. WMS is also available on web sites such as Amazon.com and Amazon.co.uk. Didsbury Press can also take annual subscriptions for WMS.

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“This is what the LORD says—your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.”

Isaiah 48:17

Counseling in EMed Helps Continued Grief



photo courtesy Rod Green

A local leader translates as Phyllis and Rand Michael, professional counselors from Oregon, USA help members of Beirut-area churches better understand grief and how to live through it.

Upcoming Events

12-14 October • British Isles North District Fraternal

15-18 October • India Leadership Development Initiative Training Event
Chennai, India

19-26 October • Nepal District Leadership Development Initiative Training Event

Beirut, Lebanon—Nine months after the memorial services for Pastor Raja Nwaiser, who passed away in September 2008 during a baptismal service, Lebanon District Superintendent Andrew Salami and Seta Nwaiser, Raja’s widow, asked Nazarene Compassionate Ministries to help guide the church as they continue to grieve individually and collectively as the body of Christ.

Rand Michael is Associate Professor and Program Director of Marriage and Family Therapy at the George Fox University’s Graduate Department of Counseling, and his wife Phyllis is Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Studies at Warner Pacific College

in the Portland, Oregon, USA area.

The two went to Beirut in May and held four sessions at a local church, helping members to understand the typical and unique responses to grief, how to be helpful to people who are grieving, and how to move on with daily living while working through one’s own grief. Between seminars, the Michaels met with many people who wanted to speak in private with a professional counselor.

After the last session on specific ways people can help others by empathetic listening, many church leaders expressed an interest in receiving more training so that they can provide proper emotional support for people in the community. ♦

Prayer Requests

- Pray for members of the Projects Caleb and Isaiah teams as they return to their homes in Central and South America. Pray that they find effective ways to minister to their communities and train other young leaders with a heart for missions.
- Pray for the growing churches in the Middle East and Spain, for local leaders to carry on ministries begun in the past two years, and for God to continually raise new leaders.
- Pray for new relationships between young people from the Netherlands and Northern Ireland. Pray that the connections made this summer will be a continued source of growth and inspiration to them, and that the time of service they shared will continue to shape the way they enter their communities.
- Pray for Joel and Sara Mullen as they begin ministry in Moncalieri, Italy and for Doug and Jennifer Mann and family as they begin ministry in Kosovo. Ask God’s peace during the transitions and guidance as they enter into new corners of the Kingdom.
- Pray for those who are still grieving the loss of Rev. Raja Nwaiser, and for resources to provide counseling within communities that need it.

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

Where Worlds Meet welcomes stories, photos and prayer requests. Please send all submissions to the editor via e-mail:

whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org

Simone Finney, Editor in Chief
sfinney@eurasiaregion.org

Marte Samuelstuen, Assistant Editor
msamuelstuen@eurasiaregion.org

www.eurasianazarene.org



Transforming Our World: In Christ • Like Christ • For Christ

Eurasia Regional Office • Postfach 1217 • 8207 Schaffhausen, Switzerland
Phone (+49) 7734 93050 • Fax (+49) 7734 930550 • E-mail whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org