

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
Y E A R 6 , I S S U E 5 • J U N E 2 0 0 9

Beyond Differences

Thoughts on Nazarene Missions International

by Philip Weatherill

Pentecost is inextricably linked with The Great Commission. The promise of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8 is followed by the statement, “you will be witnesses...” What followed Pentecost was a time when a small group of people changed the world.

During those days, the effects of the coming of the Holy Spirit were startling. With the Holy Spirit’s guidance, that small group of people put aside the influences of different backgrounds, different personalities and—arguably most importantly—different opinions to focus on the common purpose and objective of their commission.

This focus did not mean that they ignored their differences. Rather, they acknowledged them and either agreed to disagree, or resolved them quickly in order to get on with the purpose and objective of the Great Commission.

Differences are a normal part of life. We need to embrace differences and use them in a positive manner.

What we cannot do is to allow those differences to become the focus to the point that we miss the chance to fulfil our purpose and objective.

At this time of Pentecost, may we all fix our minds and hearts on the purpose and objective of the Great Commission, lifting our eyes above the differences which so often restrict us. ♦

News. Info. Photos.
Resources. Links.
Other Fun Things.

www.eurasianazarene.org

Cyclone Aila Storms on India, Bangladesh



photo courtesy Amitava Chatterjee

story • page 3

Diehl’s Off: Eurasia Says Farewell to General

After two years overseeing and signing off on Eurasia’s ongoing development, the region’s history-making General Superintendent (GS) in Jurisdiction is laying down his pen.

Dr. James Diehl, who chose to return to Eurasia for his final term as a GS, will retire in July at the 2009 General Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA.

“The people of Eurasia got into my heart during my previous two-year assignment,” said Diehl. “From Europe to the Middle East, to the CIS, to Eastern Europe, to Southeast Asia, the people called Nazarenes worked their way into my heart and soul.”

During the past two years, Diehl was part of significant moments in the life of Eurasia: the first GS to visit Armenia, Kazakhstan and Nepal, he also ordained the first Nazarene elders in Iraq, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Ukraine.

“We have been thrilled with Dr. Diehl’s ministry in the CIS as he helped continue the revival in some of our locations and inspired many with his preaching and personal touch,” said CIS Field Strategy Coordinator Bob Skinner.

“The greatest joy we had was getting to know Dr. Diehl personally in our travels and seeing how he won the hearts of all the leaders in the Middle East,” said Lindell Browning, Eastern Mediterranean Field Strategy Coordinator. “His



photo by Joel Muller

preaching and warm personality is always an encouragement and challenge to us.”

“He symbolizes the vision and the passion, but also the care that the Church of the Nazarene has and should have for its people,” said Eurasia Regional Director Gustavo Crocker. “He understands the meaning of “rejoice in the Lord always.” We saw him facing so many problems and family issues and health issues [during his time with us], and I have never seen him lose the joy.”

Diehl departs with a final encouragement: “Keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning in your hearts, in your churches, and in your colleges and Bible colleges. God wants all of us to lead from a “heart on fire” rather than from a heart filled with dead ashes. May God help all of you to continue “fanning the flame!” ♦

to the Ends of the Earth

Across Eurasia, communities of believers are finding out what it means to make disciples of all nations.

By Heidi Bowes



photo courtesy Annabelle de Jong

"In the Germany District, we've started combining outreach with raising support for mission projects. Local churches are organizing "Jogathons" in and with their local communities. Participants found sponsors for each lap they ran. Another church in our district sells Pad Thai food at a community market with an open-air church service right at the center of the market. Both events have helped to introduce Nazarene churches to the community and raised money for various missions projects."

Annabell de Jong, Germany District NMI President

In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus commanded his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." From this, the Great Commission, we recognize our call to missions.

For some, the call to "go and make disciples" means striving to impact those far away; for others, this call is embodied by serving locally. Indeed, both understandings and both practices are vital as they demonstrate the love of Christ to one's neighbor, both near and far.

Jesus later told his disciples, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth," (Acts 1:8).

While these locations are part of the Eurasia region, Eurasians are reaching people in their own "Jerusalems, Judeas, and Samarias", as well as extending their witness to the ends of the earth.

Nazarene Missions International (NMI) seeks to encourage and mobilize churches as they are called and led in missions.

What does that look like in Eurasia? Read on.

"Recently Abhay was leading a worship service at our church, but my thoughts went back to a particular Sunday over 20 years ago where children were leading the service. They presented an envelope to our church treasurer that contained cash to buy a guitar for children at a church in Argentina. They had heard of this need and decided they wanted to help. They cleaned homes, tended chickens, fed water to buffaloes and ran small errands to earn money. Abhay was one of these kids and was about seven years old. He pulled weeds from my garden and watered my rose bushes. He did this because he wanted to help his brothers and sisters in Christ, who also loved Jesus. He grew up and went on to receive a theological education, and today he is serving as a missionary."

Sudha Meshramkar
Eastern Maharashtra District, India

"On Sunday mornings, many of the local churches members participate in a fast. But they do not only fast; they also take their share of rice to the church and pray. This share of rice is called "nehsih" in Thadou, the local language. Nehsih is sold by NMI, and the funds are used for evangelism."

Jenny Singson
Northeast India District NMI President,

"One can never out-give God. In one of our NMI meetings, we helped people to look at the opportunities, talents and skills that God has given us. People were encouraged to use these to raise extra funds for mission work. Teachers took extra tuition classes, and nurses, paramedics, clerks, supervisors and drivers worked overtime. These funds from working overtime were given to mission work."

Sudha Meshramkar
Eastern Maharashtra District, India

"In our area, there were several homes burned to the ground this year. The homeowners were of different faiths, not just Christians. Our NMI group has gone to the victims in these areas and shared with them, one household at a time. We seek to encourage the victims that even though they have lost so much, they still have God and they still have prayer, and then we pray with them."

East India District

"Our NMI group regularly visits homes in rural areas. They pray with the families and if they identify needs during the visit, they try to minister to those needs. For example, if someone is sick and they need to go to the hospital, the group raises funds to hire a car to take the person to the hospital!"

East India District



photo courtesy Beryl Clarkson

"In 2008, our local NMI raised money for a Work and Witness project in Hungary. Eighty ladies from the British Isles South Zone assembled together for a Ladies High Tea in Leeds. The day was hard work for the local NMI but good fun, and we raised over £600. Everyone asked when we would be hosting another event."

Beryl Clarkson
British Isles South District

NMI: Eurasia Churches Make Disciples Among Neighbors Near, Far

from page 2

“For more than 25 years, Germany District has played an active role in the child sponsorship program; we’ve grown this program from 13 sponsors in 1981 to now supporting more than 100 children.”

Dorothea Gueting
former Germany District NMI President

“Our church became self-supporting, and we were able to pay our pastor a good salary. Our pastor then encouraged our church to begin to use part of his salary to send a missionary to a different location that needed to hear the Gospel. As our local church has continued to grow, with approximately 200 members, we are supporting five missionaries now.”

Rev. R. D. Makasare
Western Maharashtra District, India

“We minister to children in the Mumbai slums through a school that reaches approximately 250 children.”

Rev. R. D. Makasare,
Western Maharashtra District, India

“The Ardrossan Church of the Nazarene, located on the West coast of Scotland, is recognized as a new-start Church. In the



photo courtesy Geoff Austin

past 12 months, we have seen new people reached in our community, and there is a greater awareness of how our church is fulfilling the Great Commission. We are committed to reaching our “Jerusalem” by building bridges through a community choir, craft club, parent and toddler group, and tea room. Through these endeavors, many people have come to the church for the first time or have revisited the church after many years away.”

Rev. Geoff Austin
British Isles North District

“NMI are the people who help pastors to make the church grow.”

Jude Fernando
Sri Lanka District NMI President



Pad Thai food raises funds in Germany

“Over many years, churches throughout Germany have sent 20 Work and Witness teams to different countries throughout the world. All who participated in Work and Witness, have agreed, ‘We cannot go on living as we did before.’”

Dorothea Gueting,
former Germany District NMI President

Eastern India, Southern Bangladesh Ravaged by Cyclone Aila

by Marte Samuelstuen
Eurasia Communications

Kolkata, India and Bangladesh—What began with heavy rains on 25 May soon turned to a more violent storm and wreaked havoc for both eastern India and southern Bangladesh. The cyclone, now referred to as Aila, has left thousands of people totally homeless after 100-kilo-meter-per-hour winds and mass flooding forced people from their homes.

“The tidal surge made the situation worse,” said Sukamal Biswas, Bangladesh District Superintendent. “The water was 10–12 feet higher than normal. Many

roads and dams have been destroyed, trees uprooted, houses blown over and washed away, as well as cattle and crops destroyed.”

In eastern India, both community buildings and homes have been completely ruined. “Our school building in Bhubaneswari was fully collapsed and around 40 families from our church are homeless,” said Amitava Chatterjee, India Field NYI Representative. “More than 250 mud houses have collapsed in this area. Crops have also been destroyed by the salt water from the Bay of Bengal.”

In one Bangladesh church community, two neighboring children have died.

At the time of this article, there are 191 reported deaths resulting from Aila, with 78 in India and 113 in Bangladesh.

“In my area, roads are full of water, up to knee level high,” added Chatterjee. “In Gosaba (India), my uncle and his family were rescued and taken to a school to stay at for now. Their house is currently under seven feet of water. One of our Jesus Film leaders is in the same condition because he and his family are living in this same village.”

Bangladesh has seen multiple Child Development Centers (CDCs) hit hard throughout the southern part of the country. The homes of two CDCs in Satkhira area were destroyed. “The children have no place to go for education and food,” said Biswas.

Bangladesh still has three CDCs in the

Mongla area that are under water, and in the Naogaon area, three additional CDC centers have been totally blown out.

About 400 Nazarene families in the Satkhira area of Bangladesh have been severely affected, and about 11 of the area’s church worship places are no longer standing.

Immediate needs are tarps, dry food, clean drinking water and medicine.

“The greatest problem that emerged was a lack of pure drinking water as saline water from the sea spilled over many ponds, rivers and other sources of clean water,” said Biswas. “When the water levels fully subside, the people will need food like rice, lentils, salt and cooking oil. People will also need kitchen and household items as many belongings have either blown away or washed away.”

With a number of churches and CDCs affected, the disaster calls for strategic responses from the church. Bangladesh District currently has the capacity to respond and is hoping to assist between 10,000 and 15,000 families.

“Thank you very much for your prayer, care, love and support for our people,” said Biswas. ♦



photo courtesy Amitava Chatterjee

Persons and churches wishing to make a donation can mark their checks “Bangladesh Cyclone Aila Relief. NCMRDB09” and mail them to the Global Treasury Services, PO Box 843116 Kansas City, MO 64184. Online giving is available at ncm.org/news

End of Sri Lanka War Declared, Peace Pending

Sri Lanka—After more than 25 years, President Mahinda Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka declared an end to a brutal civil war in which tens of thousands have lost their lives and more than 250,000 have been forced to flee their homes, living on the run or huddling in refugee camps. Military victory, however, doesn't guarantee peace.

Many terrorists are now in hiding, waiting for an opportunity to act again while hundreds of thousands of Tamils look fearfully to the future. As the country awaits the government's steps toward creating peace and reconciliation between the Tamil minority and the Sinhalese majority, the people in refugee camps wonder how to survive.

To date, NCM Lanka, the compassionate arm of the Church of the Nazarene in Sri Lanka, is one of the few groups that the government has asked for help. Years of work following the tsunami in eastern Sri Lanka, and compassion toward internal refugees in that area have built a foundation of trust.

"The situation and requirements still change almost daily," said Hermann Gschwandner, NCM Coordinator for South Asia. "We have been asked to supply some 40,000 internal refugees with all they need: food, daily necessities, possibly living quarters. We can purchase everything in the country and the co-workers of NCM Lanka have already been to the camps several times."

NCM International has advanced funds for initial help, but serving tens of thousands of displaced peoples for six months or more necessitates many helping hands. It also means addressing the trauma of the war through effective counseling.

"This is certainly a tall task," said Glen Argabright, an American layman who coordinates much of the South Asia Field Partnership, "and one that requires us all to step up to the plate to pray for not only the refugees, but our leadership that now is in the position to show the love of Jesus." ♦

Persons and churches wishing to make a donation can mark their checks "Sri Lanka Internally Displaced People NCM PRLK09" and mail them to the Global Treasury Services, PO Box 843116 Kansas City, MO 64184. In Canada, checks should be made payable and sent to the Church of the Nazarene Canada, 20 Regan Road, Unit 9, Brampton, Ontario L7A 1C3.

Online giving is available at ncm.org/news



Evidence of NCM Lanka's dedication to long-term service in its country, the organization recently dedicated 50 houses as replacements for homes lost in the tsunami in 2006.

Bulgarian, Romanian Youth Pull All-Nighter

Bucharest, Romania—Piled into one vehicle, 10 young people from the Razgrad, Bulgaria church ventured across the border to join eight youth at a Bucharest, Romania church for an all-night event in —.

"This was the first time the two districts had done anything like this and everyone agreed that it was a great first start," said Te-anna Sunberg, missionary to Bulgaria, who joined the event with her four daughters and Mission Corps worker Cassie Lara.

Thanks to the hosting efforts of Monica and Cristi Boseff in Bucharest and the efforts of Pastor Nikolaj Kolev from Razgrad, most of the young people were able to stay up all night, then take a walking tour of Bucharest in the morning.

Though the two countries are neighbors, Bulgaria and Romania, like most of the countries on the Southeastern Europe Field, have nothing in common linguistically. It's a significant challenge for the field, whose nine major languages are so diverse that multi-district events are generally conducted in English, like this one was.

Still, the youth had plenty to talk about.

With the Orthodox Church dominating faith in both countries, and having joined the European Union at the same time, the two post-communist nations face many of the same social and economic challenges.

They also discussed ways to share Christ's love with their friends and neighbors who do not yet know Him.

"One of the Romanian youth who has just recently received Christ said, 'They aren't bad people, they just don't know about Jesus yet,'" said Sunberg. "On that Sunday morning, her parents came to church for the third Sunday in a row."

The district continues to look for new ways to support and encourage one another, so in April, the Razgrad church took a van of adults and youth to Sigisoara, Romania to visit and worship together with Roberta Bustin, Dorothy Tarrant, and Magda Cini, who are co-workers helping lead the ministries in Sigisoara and the nearby village of Sigmandru.

"Again, they are finding ways to cross the language barriers that naturally present challenges," said Sunberg. ♦

CIS Builds Child Development Curriculum



Ukraine—"Connecting a New Generation" established a 10-year emphasis on children and youth for the Church of the Nazarene. After surveying children's workers throughout Eurasia in 2008, the need for culturally-relevant, holiness-centered children's curriculum was clear.

From the 24-30 April, 32 children's workers from five different Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries met together in Ukraine for a Child Development Conference. Trino Jara and Iryna Galisevych organized the weeklong event to include a variety of child development theory, practical ideas and creative projects all with the child in mind. A writing seminar was also held in order to establish new children's curriculum for the CIS Field.

"Everything created was done by the CIS teachers; thus, it is entirely a CIS-produced project," said Heidi Bowes, Eurasia's Connecting a New Generation Coordinator.

By the end of the event, the group had completed eight weeks'-worth of lessons for two age groups, 6-8 years old and 9-11 years old. "At the end of writing seminar, each children's worker left with the ability to create and write his/her own lesson that can be shared and used by another teacher," Bowes said.

One of the presenters at the conference was Randa Halaseh, a pastor's wife in Jordan. Halaseh "taught that the teacher must first be a disciple in order to disciple others," said Bowes, "and about the importance of teaching to different learning styles by utilizing all activities of the lesson to teach the objective."

The writing seminar group received the assignment to teach their lesson in the classroom and then to return the lesson electronically during the month of May. By July, all of the created lessons will be compiled and available for CIS children's workers in time for the beginning of the school year in September. ♦

a race well-run

For John Haines, Eurasia's first regional director was a significant mentor, a perpetual servant and a cherished friend.

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

2 Timothy 4:6-8

I can almost hear his strong preaching voice quoting this text with clarity and vigor. Dr. Thomas Schofield was a gifted preacher, whose voice could rouse his congregation to believe, 'it must be so'.

I knew him first as Superintendent of the British Isles South District—I was young and, a recent graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary, had come to pastor a church on the district. Though the language was sometimes a challenge, I was certain that I would find a place of ministry in Britain, and I looked up to Dr. Schofield for his wisdom, charisma, servant-leadership and wonderful sense of humor. He always had a story, a joke, an anecdote that disarmed and amused and set at ease those around him.

In 1983, the Europe/Middle East Region was established with Dr. Schofield as the first regional director. In 1985, India was added to this already complex region, and the name had to be changed. It became Eurasia, and with the wider responsibilities and jurisdiction, Dr. Schofield invited me to join him in the regional office. That was the year that I came to know the real spirit of the man.

He became a father to me in many ways, taking an interest in my young life. Indeed, I am on the Eurasia Region today, a missionary in the Church of the Nazarene, because he believed in me, took a chance on me and stood up for me, and I am ever in his debt for that!

In the years leading up to his retirement, we worked together, traveled together and grew together.

I asked him once, while sitting in a long traffic jam on the motorway on our way to a campaign in Gloucester, England, "How are you doing spiritually?" He was silent for a time, and then replied, "It has been so long since anyone asked me that important question...thank you! I'm doing fine!"

The weight of the region could always be heavy, but with financial crises not unlike what we're experienc-

ing now, it could be crushing. I was concerned that under that load, it could be difficult to keep the spiritual life intact. Dr. Schofield had his eye on the prize...crossing that finishing line!

I knew him to be a man of integrity, living and modeling what he preached. At one district assembly, he was serving tables, and a lady said to me, "I can't believe the regional director is waiting on us." He was not so much 'the regional director' in that moment as he was a clear example of servant-leadership. That picture has always stuck with me.

In recent days, when I have seen Dr. and Mrs. Schofield, his interest in the region and his desire that we be 'on mission' was always the conversation. He was keen to know what was going on, how people (whom he could still name) were getting on, and he deeply desired to pray for and support the mission of this great region.

I am confident today that he has indeed kept the faith and received the crown of righteousness, the garland of victory, as he crossed the finish line at 2:45 a.m. on Saturday, 23 May at the age of 86.

A champion in every sense of the word, Dr. Thomas Schofield is home, and he is now cheering us on. ♦



Dr. Schofield pastored congregations at Birmingham Small Heath, Glasgow Govan, Ardrossan, Dewsbury and Bolton First between 1943 and 1967. He served as superintendent of the British Isles South District from 1967 to 1984 and graced Eurasia as its first regional director from 1983 to 1989.

He graduated from Emmanuel Bible College, Birkenhead, England in 1943 and was ordained 7 April, 1947, in Glasgow Parkhead Church of the Nazarene by General Superintendent H.V. Miller. Schofield lectured part-time for a number of years at

Hurlett Nazarene College in Glasgow, Scotland and British Isles Nazarene College in Manchester, England (now Nazarene Theological College). In 1987, he was bestowed with an honorary doctor of divinity degree from Olivet Nazarene University.

Dr. Schofield is survived by his wife of 65 years, Marion, and their children: Joan (David), Margaret, and John (Lynn); seven grandchildren: Peter (Mandy), Shauna, Jonathan (Catherine), Jonathan (Clare), Amy (Ruben), Mark and Richard; and eight grandchildren: Katy, Christopher, Carys, Lucy, Emily, Jacob, Isabelle and Cian.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Upcoming Events

25 June • Regional Day of Prayer for General Assembly and Conventions

24 June - 2 July • General Assembly and Conventions
Orlando, Florida, USA



Woman of the Year: UK's Kath Queen Honored



Carlisle, England—When Kath Queen looked around the struggling estate where she grew up, she knew God was calling someone to work there. She just didn't think He was calling her.

But after becoming a teaching assistant in a Raffles school 23 years ago, her burden for the community led her and a team of volunteers to build a children's club for eight years; she left her job in 1998 to begin the Living Well Trust with Barrie Thomas. It's this work that earned Queen the votes for Cumbria County's "Woman of the Year" award in 2008.

Raffles was notorious in the late 1980s for high levels of violence and drug use, and the low self-esteem Queen saw around her seemed to prevent residents from rising above the cycle. The Living

Well Trust, established through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, offers parental training, tutoring for children, mentoring for youth and activities for all ages.

Over the last 11 years, the work has developed beyond expectation, planting a Nazarene Church nearby and helping transform the community. Now, it's a neighborhood where people want to live.

"Kath has received recognition for her tenacity and resilience, but most of all her love for the people and the compassion of her heart," said Thomas.

Her office is a difficult place to leave, she admitted, even for a holiday. For Queen, the Trust is so much more than a job.

"This is my second home, this is where I am safe, this is where I am me," she said. "It's lovely." ♦

Prayer Requests

- Pray for peace to be established in Sri Lanka following the end of the civil war. Pray for the estimated 100,000 refugees created by recent violence and for the NCM workers who will be striving to meet the ongoing needs in the country.
- Please join with others to pray one million hours of prayer for the global church as it prepares for General Assembly and Conventions in Orlando, Florida, USA this summer. Pray for wisdom for those leading the organization and for the resources and logistics that will allow delegates to attend.
- Pray for the development of a new Arabic-language television program in the Middle East, and for partnerships that will allow it to be broadcast around the world.
- Pray for those affected by the devastating cyclone and flooding in the southern part of Bangladesh and the eastern part of India. Pray that the churches will be equipped to offer hope for those who have lost so much.
- Pray for Eurasia's General Superintendent in Jurisdiction Dr. James Diehl as he completes his service in Eurasia and prepares for retirement in July. Pray for God's presence with his family during this transition, and for continued opportunities to love and serve those around him.

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