

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
Y E A R 6 , I S S U E 4 • M A Y 2 0 0 9

Grace and Peace, Multiplied

Thoughts from the
South Asia Field

by Ron Gilbert

There are countless ways we see the grace and peace of our Lord demonstrated in and throughout the Eurasia region. And no matter where you find yourself in the world today, God can use you to multiply both grace and peace in the lives of others. One of the ways I have seen this really come to life is through partnering with Work and Witness teams throughout South Asia.

I recently watched a group of 19 team members from Indiana, USA working alongside 19 Sri Lankan pastors. In their partnership, I saw God using this unique opportunity to bring together Christ-followers from two different cultures and really different worlds to demonstrate that we are one great family in Christ.

After the team from Indiana returned home, I received the following note in an e-mail from Mary, one of the team members:

“This trip to Sri Lanka really affected me, and I want people to understand what is happening there. I have been talking about it a lot, but sometimes people only want to know whether or not you had a good trip. Only telling people this can’t even come close to sharing what gets a hold of a person when they have connected with brothers and sisters in another part of the world. South Asia is a part of who I am now. God inserted a passion in me for the people there that wasn’t a part of me before I visited Sri Lanka.”

Mary added, “Work and Witness is great for people like me who want to serve but what I can do is limited and certainly traveling anywhere by myself isn’t the best thing.”

I don’t think there is any question that the grace and peace in Mary’s life has been multiplied.

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Middle East Launches Arabic TV Show ‘More Than Words’ to Air on Area’s Top Christian Station



by Simone Finney
Eurasia Communications

In a part of the world where important messages have long been shared by climbing to the rooftops and shouting, it’s hard to miss the crowds of satellite receivers that top buildings in many of the Middle East’s major cities today.

It’s a reality that hasn’t been lost on Nazarene Broadcasting and Communications Ministry (NBCM) Director Ayman Kafrouny.

“After more than five years preaching the Word of God through radio, we found it necessary to make a shift in our

ways of communicating with our society since the new generation is now more interested in TV than radio,” he said.

In December 2008, NBCM made the transition official, shooting the pilot episode of a new television show, “*Aktar Me Kalem*”, or “More Than Words.”

The 30-minute program targets youth and young adults, each episode focused on a common problem, like specific family issues that parents are facing with their children in the 21st century. Short testimonies and interviews explore the topic through real people’s experiences,

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South Asia’s First NMI Events Inspire Leaders

by Marte Samuelstuen
Eurasia Communications

India and South Asia Fields—In the first three weeks of March, districts in India, Bangladesh and Nepal held conferences focused on the work and philosophy of Nazarene Missions International (NMI). Groups in Delhi, Kolkata and Bangalore (India), Bir-gonj, Bangladesh and Kathmandu, Nepal gathered between 20 and 500 participants.

Though the common focus was global participation and the foundational goals of NMI, each city’s meeting was unique. In Nepal, an introduction was offered to participants who had never been previously taught about NMI, and then on the same field in Bangladesh, a three-day mission

conference, “Walk With Jesus”, was held with nearly 500 people. In each location, no matter what their background was in NMI, those who gathered were very excited about participating in missions through both local and global contexts.

“In all of the places, I thought it was important to ensure that there was a shared understanding of why we do missions, why it’s important, the purpose of NMI and the fact that it’s for everyone,” said Eurasia NMI Coordinator Heidi Bowes. “Why we do missions is tied to the command of the Great Commission and really the character of God. God is calling all people, in all nations everywhere to go and make disciples.”

see “NMI” • page 2

EuNC Grad Authors Devotional Book

by Joanna O'Hanlon
European Nazarene College

Stuttgart, Germany—Dave Schnitter, a 2008 graduate of European Nazarene College (EuNC), authored a devotional book belonging to the series *Feiert* (“celebrate”) *Jesus*, and they’re selling out fast.

After graduating from EuNC, the German-born Schnitter spent his summer working in the music department of the German Hänssler Publishing House near Stuttgart, Germany, which releases a new songbook every year called *Feiert Jesus*, which includes contemporary worship songs in both English and German.

The series is widely used with public audiences, churches, Bible studies, and small groups. Soon after beginning work at the publishing house, Schnitter’s boss approached him with the idea of creating a devotional book based on the popular worship songs out of the *Feiert Jesus* series. From the beginning, the idea was to offer a package-deal: the book plus a double CD with all the songs on it.

“You can listen to the ‘song of the day’ on the CD or on your iPod and then read the devotion to it at the same time,” said Schnitter, “and all that happening during your morning coffee or in the bus to school.”

Each devotion starts with the lyrics of the song, followed by Schnitter’s insights and a designated Scripture passage, challenging questions and a



prayer.

The book’s first edition, released in late January, had already sold out by mid-March.

A second edition is currently being printed.

Schnitter has also been asked to write a second book, but he is still praying about this opportunity before making a final decision.

During his time on campus, students and faculty perceived Schnitter as a person with a good mood spread by his welcoming smile and musical gifts: he was the one bringing the guitar to the bonfires, spicing up worship with his self-composed songs or ideas like having the congregation sing two songs at the same time.

Although he declines to call himself an author “or anything cool like that,” Schnitter is excited for where the Spirit-wind of God is blowing him next. ♦

NMI: South Asia Hosts



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“Everywhere I went, I met such excellent leaders who really want to see their churches and local districts play an active role in global missions,” she added.

Sarah Dandge, who attended all three gatherings in India, found them informative and challenging. “The various leaders were able to share about their understanding of NMI and how they participate in missions,” she said. “This sharing was encouraging to others who did not do missions in their church or district. Some leaders expressed their misconceptions about NMI, which was an eye-opening experience and offered a challenge for them to begin teaching and practicing missions with a new perspective.”

With emphasis on NMI’s four main goals of prayer, giving, mission education and discipling children and youth, every group shared how they are living missionally in their setting while developing new ways of working locally and globally.

Some give standard monetary offerings, while others focus on more tangible items like rice, a handful of which a home can gather daily from each family member and then re-sell to aid in local community work.

Others work locally, visiting neighbors with different religious backgrounds and praying for their families as well as seeking to meet various physical needs.

“There are so many things that the rest of the region can learn from the India and South Asia Fields,” Bowes said “and it is exciting to see and envision how God will be using our churches in these areas to reach others around the globe for Him.”

Future NMI gatherings are being organized for India’s southern and western districts as some in Bangalore committed to holding missions rallies in the next six months.

“Having a mission gathering encourages people to begin thinking globally and gives you that priority to say... ‘missions is important, and this is what the Lord has enabled us to do for others,’” said Bowes. “NMI is integral to the very fabric of the Church of the Nazarene; it’s who we are, and hopefully living missionally can be a natural outflow for what it means to follow Christ no matter where you live in the world.” ♦

More Than Words: Arabic TV Show Aims Global

from page 1

and are interspersed with practical ideas from Kafrouny, the show’s host, about how to deal with the problem, either through a Biblical devotion or through a short interview with a pastor, psychiatrist, psychologist or doctor. Each episode also contains two or three songs written and performed by Kafrouny, who has long been a significant musical figure in the Middle East.

“The goal of the program is to tell the people that the Gospel is more than words,” said Kafrouny. “It’s the living word of God that can really change any person who trusts it, and we believe that television is the best tool we can use to

proclaim this truth.”

Since 2000, Kafrouny has produced the weekly 15-minute radio program, “*Foshat Amal*” (“Journey of Hope”) for the Arabic-speaking community throughout Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and northern Egypt, where it was broadcast for several years on short-wave radio.

But with listener responses dwindling consistently among his and other radio broadcasts in the area in recent months, Kafrouny began to suspect that television was a wider door into the Arabic-speaking community.

Six months’-worth of episodes were completed this spring, and the program is scheduled to air on SAT7, the number-one Christian television station in the Middle East, beginning in June. The station has also offered to produce a live show hosted by Kafrouny once a month, allowing for more viewer interaction.

NBCM is also hoping to partner with Arabic-language channels on other continents in order to re-broadcast the program with English subtitles for Middle Eastern expatriates and their families around the world. ♦



Sri Lanka War Creates 10,000 New Refugees

by Marte Samuelstuen
Eurasia Communications

Sri Lanka—In a civil war that has lasted more than 25 years, thousands of Sri Lankans have been forced from their homes to areas away from the conflict in their country. For many, their escape to refugee camps has been one of intense tragedy and impossible circumstances.

In a city close to the fighting, Nazarene Compassionate Ministry (NCM) workers recently met the director of an orphanage for physically and mentally handicapped children.

He shared that in recent weeks as the fighting escalated in the north, all of the children and workers from the orphanage had to take cover in the nearby bunkers with their neighbors. For three days, they huddled there without food or water, unable to stand up in bunkers less than five feet deep with no roof except for a thin, polythene sheet. While trying to hide, one person in an adjoining bunker was hit by a missile and burned up completely; all the children had to watch as this happened.

After three days, the fighting stopped. The director of the orphanage left the bunker to find some food for the children, but was shocked when he emerged into an area littered with body parts.

The community was caught in the crossfire between the Sri Lankan Army and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). They knew they needed to move, and decided to flee towards the army side, across 800 meters of fighting ground. At 2 a.m., they ran towards the army side, across ground covered with body parts. The smell was almost unbearable.

Just before reaching the army side, some of the mentally handicapped children lost control and, afraid the army might shoot at them, started to run in the other direc-

tion. Out of 22 children, only 14 reached the army side. Nobody knows what happened to the others.

The army brought the remaining members of their group to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp the following day in late April. The children needed a specific medicine, and they only acquired some when an Anglican Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka sent it to the camp.

The director of the orphanage is unable to sleep through the night now because of nightmares and flashbacks.

Almost 200,000 refugees have reached the camps; tens of thousands are probably still in the war zones. Some have lost everything, including their families. It will take years to work through the trauma of 25 years of civil war.

The LTTE, also known as the Tamil Tigers, have been fighting in hopes of acquiring their own independent state in Sri Lanka. The army is pushing to defeat the LTTE as soon as possible, but as a result, the violence has dramatically increased in recent months.

The Sri Lankan government has asked NCM-Lanka as well as a few other organizations to help, due to work after the tsunami and with the internal refugees in eastern Sri Lanka that laid a foundation of trust between the Sri Lankan government and NCM.

Local NCM workers will help those suffering to overcome their emotional scars through trauma counseling. They will also supply food, household kits and tents if resources allow for it. Crisis Care Kits are now being compiled to provide some of the most basic supplies. ♦

Those wishing to donate to relief efforts can mark their checks "Sri Lanka Internally Displaced People NCM/PRK09" and mail them to the Global Treasury Services, PO Box 843116 Kansas City, MO 64184. Online giving is also possible at ncm.org

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Multiplied: Partners in Work and Witness

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I have also heard the testimonies from local Nazarene pastors who have been impacted from their partnership with Work and Witness. Pastor Daniel from Sri Lanka remarked, "Working with these teams has helped me to realize how special our church family really is."

Pastor Jude, also from Sri Lanka, added, "I did not know other people cared so much about us until I worked with these Work and Witness teams."

As brothers and sisters from different parts of the world join together, there is

an inevitable life-sharing that takes place through their participation in Work and Witness. As we work together, we are all on the receiving-end of God's grace and peace, and yes, it is multiplied in our lives.

You may not be able to travel to some far-off land, but who says that Work and Witness cannot begin at your home church, on your own district or within your own country? Let's open our eyes and see the opportunities that are there before us.

I encourage all of us to take advantage of this avenue of experiencing God's grace and peace being multiplied in our lives. ♦

27th General Assembly Live Online

The 27th General Assembly services and business sessions will be broadcast live via the Internet from Orlando, Florida, USA from 24 June through 2 July. The broadcast site will go live on 1 June for those wishing to test their local connectivity, and will remain active for the duration of the event. Beginning 1 June, a link to the site can be found at the Nazarene Media Library Web site, www.nazarenemedialibrary.org. During the event, a quicklink will be available at www.nazarene.org.

Following the event, worship services, business, celebration services and selected workshops will be available for download, at no cost, at the Nazarene Media Library Web site.

Broadcast schedule for services

Wednesday, 1:00 PM EDT
Global Celebration: Nazarene Missions International Emphasis*

Wednesday, 7:00 PM EDT
General Assembly Corporate Worship, Speaker, Dr. Jess Middendorf

Thursday, 10:30 AM EDT
Global Celebration:
Sunday School Discipleship Ministries Emphasis*

Thursday, 7:00 PM EDT
General Assembly Corporate Worship, Speaker, Dr. J.K. Warrick

Friday, 10:30 AM EDT
Global Celebration: Nazarene Youth International Emphasis*

Friday, 7:00 PM EDT
General Assembly Corporate Worship, Speaker, Dr. Jerry Porter

Saturday, 7:00 PM EDT
General Assembly Corporate Worship, Speaker, Dr. Jim Diehl

Sunday, 10:00 AM EDT
General Assembly Corporate Worship & Communion Service, Speaker, Dr. Paul Cunningham

Sunday, 4:00 PM EDT
General Assembly Corporate Worship, Speaker, Dr. Nina Gunter

Fresh Ground: SW London Church Rethinks Building, Mission

by Simone Finney

Eurasia Communications

London, England—The group of 14 British teenagers that descended on a London church in February painted, cleaned, stripped walls, demolished, scrubbed and prepped for a remodel—much to the surprise of the neighbors.

“As we worked on the church, people were walking past and amazed that teenagers were actually doing something in the area,” said Jo Tamburello, who organizes British Isles South District (BISD) Youth in Mission (YIM) projects like this.

The sacrifice of their mid-term break meant the youth from various district churches were the first to kick-start a new phase of ministry in Battersea, a southwest London neighborhood about three miles from Westminster’s tourist attractions, where the Thomas Memorial Church of the Nazarene is reassessing its building, location and presence in the community.

The initiative, known as “Fresh Ground,” aims to make Christlike disciples in community through genuine friendships. “We are especially interested in innovative and simple ways to make connections and have meaningful conversations with the un-churched,” said Jason Nike, who is heading the initiative with his wife, Laura. “The un-churched are those people whose only experience of church has been in attending christenings, weddings and funerals, and for whom Christianity is most likely seen



photo courtesy Jo Tamburello

as another irrelevant form of organized religion. This is the fastest growing group of people in London today. They are the fresh ground we are looking to approach in fresh ways.”

Thomas Memorial’s church building is located in the heart of Battersea at the crossroads of its two busiest streets. Surrounded by shops, restaurants, bars, cafés and residential properties, the building has an almost-constant stream of passers-by. The residential area is known locally as “Nappy Valley” and has the highest population of under-fives in Europe.

The growing number of teenagers and young adults in the area will swell over the coming years, and the current lack of hangouts for those between 11 and

18 has the team thinking. Then there’s the significant amount of mothers and nannies out with young children in local cafés, parks and libraries during the day.

“We’d like to have the space downstairs be as multi-use as possible, for lots of different community groups,” said Nike. “There’s a café facility that can run alongside something very family-centered and children-oriented. And youth need somewhere kind of cool to just hang out, watch TV, stuff like that—especially the Friday/Saturday evening venue that’s not a pool hall or pub.”

Ultimately, he said, “we are exploring ways in which we could use and open up the ample space we have in order to serve the local community.” ♦

Leadership Development Wraps First Year With Bulgaria

by Simone Finney

Eurasia Communications

Razgrad, Bulgaria—A mixture of 16 pastors, village pastors, and young people with a call to pastor or remain as active laypeople in their churches gathered in Razgrad, Bulgaria 2-5 April for Southeastern Europe (SEE) Field’s first venture into Eurasia’s newest focus on leadership development.

The region’s Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) in Bulgaria welcomed an mix of ethnic Bulgarians, Roma and Turkish-Roma believers, embracing the diversity within the district’s churches as a foundation for emerging leadership.



photo courtesy Teanna Sunberg

“It was really good to come together to be able to see and discuss a new understanding of what leadership should look like Biblically,” said Teanna Sunberg, wife of SEE Field Strategy Coordinator Jay Sunberg, who both joined Eurasia Education Coordinator John Haines and British Isles pastor Clive Burrows as trainers for the event. “It was very encouraging to see the young people we had in the group, their levels of maturity and their passion to serve.”

Even with a full schedule, each participant showed up to every session, demonstrating the commitment that made Sunberg grateful for the intentional investment in them.

“Hopefully [mentoring] happens naturally and organically, but doing it intentionally is a really positive thing. It would be a shame to have people with a call to servanthood slip through the cracks because no one gave them the attention they needed.”

Sunberg was moved by an evening activity that prompted participants to share some deep thoughts and experiences, especially because Bulgarians traditionally shy away

from personal topics in public settings.

Bulgaria marked the end of Phase One’s first year within the regional leadership development initiative, which chose one district per field to hold training event. To complete Phase One, an event will be held in each district on the region, with the experiences from these first seven focusing the training.

The training is only successful if there’s consistent mentorship of participants for the next two years, emphasized Haines. “The key is not how well they get it in the event, it’s how committed they actually are to investing their lives in others from this point,” he said.

Changing some traditional ideas about mentoring is also important to the future.

“There are a lot of people who think mentorship and discipleship are the same thing, and they’re not,” he added. “It’s not about being a boss. A mentor is a person who is walking alongside a protégé who actually knows and understands his or her own goals. The mentor is there to help the protégé achieve and focus, not to tell him or her everything.” ♦

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.”

Colossians 2:6-7

Upcoming Events

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

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



Bangladesh Offers 15th Sewing Skills Course

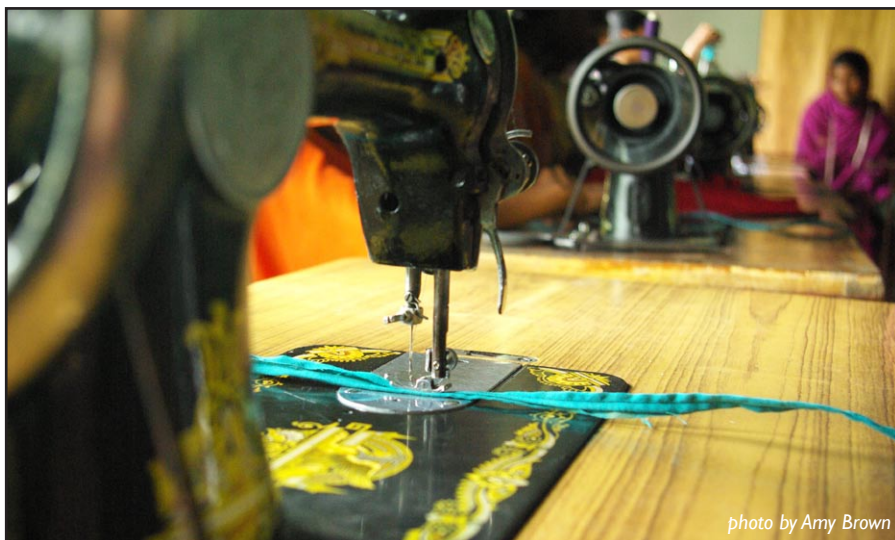


photo by Amy Brown

Birgonj, Bangladesh—In the mid-afternoon April heat of northern Bangladesh, the women bend over their sewing machines in a narrow concrete room, dim in order to avoid the added heat of electric lights. Dusty sun streams through a long window on one side of the room, backlighting the garments under construction.

The 19 women are more than halfway through the six-month sewing course, hoping to join the steady income of the local garment sector once they're finished.

It's the 15th group of women who have extended their employment opportunities under Anil Mardi, the locally-

born man who has seen 400 students through the course since it began in 2002.

It's one of several income-generating projects sponsored by Bangladesh Nazarene Mission (BNM), which supports church growth through community development, offering people hope for every aspect of their lives.

Mardi, who gained his skills from Nazarene training in Dhaka, returned to his hometown and worked in a clothing shop for four years before taking on this course.

“I like teaching the theory, the logic of cutting cloth,” he said. “Because I learned from the training, it makes me feel good when I teach others.” ♦

Prayer Requests

- Pray for peace in Sri Lanka and for an end to the civil war. Pray for the estimated 100,000 refugees who are dealing with the aftermath of the recent violence and who have been forced to leave their homes. Pray for NCM workers who will be aiding those who have been caught in the conflict.
- 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 the Fresh Ground initiative in London as the ministry team makes contacts in the area and looks for creative ways to use their building as a connection point with the community.
- Pray for the community development programs in Bangladesh, for those coordinating the efforts of Bangladesh Nazarene Mission (BNM) and those enrolled in many of the programs. Pray that it will embody the Kingdom in practical ways.

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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