

# where WORLDS meet

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

## Shuffling Toward the Kingdom

Thoughts from the  
Northern Europe Field

by Philip McAlister

*Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." -Acts 3:6*

He looked at me through tearful eyes. He wanted to be healed in the name of Jesus. He had just been anointed with oil by a group of pastors and we had prayed fervently that God would bring healing to his body that had been afflicted by a stroke.

I saw the pain and anguish in his eyes—the longing to be able to walk freely and to have unrestricted movement in his arm and hand. He rose from the chair and I watched him shuffle out the door.

I questioned the pastors about what had just taken place in that small room. Would he be healed if he had been prayed over by pastors in India, Bangladesh or the Horn of Africa where many mighty acts are being accomplished by the Spirit of God?

The conversation turned to rationalisation. Of course we can only do what the Scripture tells us to do; the work of healing must come from God. Yes, I know all of those arguments and explanations. I have used them all myself when trying to explain why I don't see with my eyes what I believe in my heart.

Right now I am in danger of being criticised for being negative. But the truth is, I long to see God move in power in Northern Europe. I long to see the church revitalised and exuberant for Christ. I want to hear the shouts of the newborn Christians. I want to experience the growing pains of churches that cannot accommodate the numbers of people God is bringing into the Kingdom.

But I watch the church in Northern

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## 1,000 Gather for Latest Bangladesh NYC District-Wide Youth Conference Encourages Further Growth



photo courtesy Ron Gilbert

*Dhaka, Bangladesh*—From north and south, from major cities and small villages, more than 1,000 young people came together from 14-16 February in Dhaka, Bangladesh for the latest Nazarene Youth International (NYI) conference for the Bangladesh District. NYI presidents from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan joined Milton Madhu, NYI President for Bangladesh, for three days filled with inspiration, commitment and fellowship. After the very first message, more than 50 young people stood to their feet to acknowledge a call on their lives

to preach the Gospel. During workshops, the young people discussed what it means to serve God in the midst of persecution and difficulties.

"These young people are going to take us to new levels of commitment and growth like we have never seen before," said Ron Gilbert, South Asia Field Strategy Coordinator said. "Pray for the youth of Bangladesh and all of South Asia as they live in difficult circumstances. In spite of the persecution, war and political unrest, these youth are still willing to declare, 'Here am I Lord, send me.'" ♦

## Daily Dinners Feed Bodies, Souls in Ukraine

by Marte Samuelstuen  
Eurasia Communications

*Zaporozhe, Ukraine*—Each day, after school, children and youth in Zaporozhe, Ukraine head over to the local Nazarene Church to share a warm meal. Since the feeding program began in October 2008, about 18 participants have begun to regularly join these meals.

These mealtimes are promoted through the youth group, so those who attend are usually between 11 and 17 years old. Meals were previously prepared each day by Zaporozhe church member Marina Takhtai; Tatianna Knish' has recently stepped forward to continue this ministry as Pastor Andrei Takhtai and his wife Marina are no longer there. There are

also computers available for the students to do homework or practice English.

A partnership between the Church of the Nazarene in Zaporozhe and the Church of the Nazarene in Susanville, California, USA has enabled this consistent dinner to take place. This partnership began in June 2008 when a Work and Witness team from Susanville first worked on a children's camp near Zaporozhe.

During the mealtimes, participants have also been memorizing various verses and passages from the Bible.

"The meal is to provide much-needed nourishment for these young people, and memorizing Scripture is a way of saying 'thank you' to God for making this

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# Dutch Youth Radio Explores Life, Faith

by Marte Samuelstuen  
Eurasia Communications

Veenendaal, Netherlands—At the age of 17, Bart Snijders is already doing what he loves. For two years, he has hosted “Let’s Talk”, a bi-monthly radio program for teenagers in his hometown of Veenendaal, Netherlands, where he is also a part of the local Nazarene church.

“Let’s Talk’ is a young, inspirational and fresh radio program,” said Snijders, whose target audience is between ages 12 and 16, thought adults also listen. “We try to do new things, and we also experiment.”

The program mixes contemporary Christian music, live interviews and news from local youth groups and churches.

Snijders is especially passionate about the use of music in the program. “Music is everything,” he said. “With music, you can bring a creative signal to people.”

“Let’s Talk” often focuses on a particular theme: one program discussed how teens might handle their parents’ divorce.

The interview portion of the program typically features stories from Snijders’ peers. Recently, he interviewed a girl who had been to Ethiopia on a summer project with World Vision. There, she described her volunteer experience and what she learned from her new Ethiopian friends. “She brought a little bit of Ethiopia to our studio, and that was just awesome,” Snijders said.



photo courtesy Philip McAlister

Ultimately, he is interested in bringing varied perspectives and fresh ideas to his audience. “I think every person in this world has something to offer,” he said. “In an interview, I try to get that little something to come out. I want our listeners to see how other people live and how they think about things.”

**“We, as Christian youth, can all be history makers.”**

*Bart Snijders  
Radio Presenter, Netherlands*

Snijders plans to pursue a journalism education, then work up to being a presenter on national radio. He wants to see his peers influence the world for good.

“We, as Christian youth, can all be history makers,” he said. “Of course, we cannot all be like Bono, but it’s the little things we do that can have an impact on someone else. Sometimes, it might feel senseless to do these small things; for example, the number of listeners we have is not that high, and sometimes that can be difficult since we work so hard. But the fact is, with even just one listener, we can make a difference!”

*“Let’s Talk” broadcasts on STILOK, a Dutch Christian station, every second Sunday afternoon.*

## Notes From the Field

**Philip Zimmerman  
Mainz, Germany**

Right from the beginning of our Mainz Nazarene Church Plant, we had the understanding that if a new church moves into a city, it must be good news for the city. But how do you measure this?

A few weeks ago, we had a new, young family show up for one of our events. They looked pretty average, so I assumed that they were Christians from another church. My assumption was correct.

Nevertheless, when I talked to the husband, I heard a great story. I asked him how he heard about us, and he answered, “Sometimes at night, I go outside to hang out with those who are living on the streets. I met a homeless man one night, and we talked for a while. When we came to the subject of Jesus, the homeless man interrupted me and said, ‘Jesus? Yeah, I know a place where they also always talk about Jesus, and it’s great. You need to check it out.’ And then he gave me one of your invitation cards. So I thought, if a homeless person invites us, we need to see it for ourselves.”

When he told me that, I had a big smile on my face. If the homeless love our church and turn into evangelists, we must be doing something right.

## Shuffling: Thoughts from N. Europe

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Europe shuffle along. Yes, I am thankful for every little bit of progress that is being made; of the ones and twos that are coming into the Kingdom; of the new expressions of church that are being established; of the young people that are willing to try something new to make church relevant to their generation. But I long for the day when the church in Northern Europe will be “walking and leaping and praising God” (Acts 3:8).

I do not know when I will see that.

But I know that I am not going to stop praying and working until it happens. Will you join me in prayer for the church in Northern Europe that birthed the Reformation and experienced renewal and revival? Ask God to revive the church that is shuffling along and trying its best to advance the Kingdom. ♦

## Ukraine Church Ministers With Bread and Word

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happen,” said Cliff Wright, missionary to Ukraine. “The kids are not forced to memorize these Scriptures, but this is something they decided to do among themselves.”

There is also an added incentive from one of member of the Susanville congregation: “If the kids can memorize 180 verses, then he will provide them a trip to Kiev and a ticket to see the circus,” said Wright. “Two of the young people have already memorized the first chapter of the Gospel of John; all 51 verses! And, all of the others are well on their way to getting this chapter memorized.”

The church hopes that, through the partnership, meals will continue to provide a source of fellowship for everyone involved; that in the breaking of bread and in their joint efforts to memorize Scripture, these young people will find physical and spiritual nourishment.

“Most of these kids are from very poor

and broken families,” said Wright. “Not only are they experiencing a good hot meal, but they are seeing God’s love in action. They are at the church, instead of out on the streets [each evening]. Ultimately, this church is a place where they can come and be loved.” ♦



photo courtesy Cliff Wright

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

*Matthew 11:28-30*

## Upcoming Events

20-23 February • General Board Meetings  
Lenexa, Kansas, USA

4-7 March • LDI Ukraine

29-31 March • South Asia Leadership  
Team (SALT) Meetings

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

## District Assemblies

6-7 March • Netherlands

8 March • France

13-14 March • British Isles South

15-16 March • British Isles North

20 March • Ukraine

21 March • Russia North

## Ukraine Baptizes 33 Across Generations



*photos courtesy Bob Skinner*

Vinnitsa, Ukraine—On 7 February, 33 people received both baptism and membership into one of several Vinnitsa-area churches. The first baptism of the year saw a range of ages: the eldest person baptized was 86 and the youngest was 16. About half of those receiving baptism had participated in district’s drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, and were able to share their story with those gathered. Pastor Roman Lebedev also preached about the Kingdom of God.

“It was exciting to hear the various testimonies and to see how God continues to move in the lives of all those who were baptized and in churches who proclaim Jesus as Lord,” said Bob Skinner, CIS Field Strategy Coordinator.

Vinnitsa churches who have joined together to support the local drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs are known as “New Start” churches, and some of those baptized came from these churches. “We are especially thankful for those who make ‘New Starts’ possible, those who desire to see the Kingdom expand,” said Skinner. ♦

## Prayer Requests

• Pray for the upcoming District Assemblies in the Northern Europe and CIS Fields. Pray that the decisions made in business sessions result in continued growth and maturity for local churches, and that each area is encouraged by the event’s fellowship.

• Pray for the the Leadership Development event in Ukraine this month, and for subsequent development throughout the district and the CIS Field. Pray that God will continue to identify leaders on the region and that churches will develop them faithfully.

• Pray for the South Asia leadership teams meeting this month, and for a series of Nazarene Missions International (NMI) training events on the field. Pray for a broadened understanding of mission and for the Spirit to stir people’s hearts toward the needs of their communities and world.

• Pray 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 districts who are currently choosing their delegates to the various conventions.

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