

# where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia  
YEAR 5, ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2008

## Moving Forward

Thoughts from the  
Eurasia Regional Director

by Gustavo Crocker

This was a particularly hard year for the ministry in Eurasia. Several pastors and key leaders died and went to meet their Savior. In India, three pastors were beaten to death during the religious clashes in Orissa. In Jordan, Rev. Raja Nwaiser, a pastor and college president passed away while conducting a baptismal service. In Ukraine, pastor Vladimir Khursin died of brain cancer, while Julie Marie Scala, the 16 year-old daughter of a volunteer family died in a car accident.

Many of our pastors, leaders, and church members are facing persecution in increasingly hostile environments. In India, six churches burned down while 15 congregations were forced to escape to the wilderness during the religious persecution in Orissa and Kerala. Three Jesus Film team members were seriously wounded when they were attacked by mobs in South India. One Eastern Mediterranean pastor was forced to leave the country due to threats against his life.

The global economic downturn hit Eurasia with a sharp drop in the value of the US Dollar and the increase in costs in almost every field of the region. Most fields also face significant challenges with governments' new visa regulations for foreign workers.

In spite of the challenges, the church of the Nazarene in Eurasia continues to experience growth in quality and quantity. A song I sang when I was a child has even more meaning for me today: "The Church marches forward in spite of tests and trials. She never stops. And if she stops, it is only to preach the gospel!"

This song became real this year as I traveled the region. It was a year of difficulties for many of the countries and leaders, and yet, this was a great year of victory and growth.

What does that look like? This issue is full of examples. Read on. ♦

## Eurasia Launches Leadership Development Bangladesh, Netherlands Host Region's First Training Sessions



photo courtesy Klaus Arnold

by Simone Finney  
Eurasia Communications

With the session held in two different venues, the Netherlands' first Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) event could have been a complete mess.

However, the 11 Dutch participants and 11 mentors that gathered from 31 Oct. - 3 Nov. returned home from Eurasia's second district session with new attitudes on what it means to lead—rather, what it means to serve—within the church.

Through get-to-know-you activities with picture cards, mealtime conversations and a "speed-dating" session designed to pair emerging leaders with mentors, the district gave the regional

curriculum a local flavor, and set itself on a path to continue training new leaders.

LDI is launching with a series of events throughout Eurasia that aim to raise leaders on each district through practical training and mentorship. District superintendents identify about a dozen emerging leaders; training events present them with biblical perspectives on leadership. The curriculum focuses on being a servant leader, with emphasis on the life of Jesus and Paul's writings in Colossians 3-4, Ephesians 3-4 and Philippians 2-3.

"[Trainers] can illustrate [leadership principles] from personal experience and I think that's what the young people [in the Netherlands] appreciated," said

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## EMed Assemblies Move Field Ministry On

*Beirut, Lebanon*—As the Lebanon District and Eastern Mediterranean (EMed) Field continue to mourn the passing of Raja Nwaiser, a Beirut pastor and former president of Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Bible College (EMNBC), this year's district assembly offered a time of significant fellowship, encouragement and ministry milestones.

Guests included jurisdictional General Superintendent Dr. James Diehl, Eurasia Regional Director Dr. Gustavo Crocker, EMed Field Strategy Coordinator (FSC) Rev. Lindell Browning and his wife Kay, and pastor Jim Goss from Ridgecrest, California, USA.

On Sunday, 9 Nov., the three Beirut churches gathered in the Ashrafiyah church to celebrate the centennial an-

niversary of the global Church of the Nazarene.

"They sang and rejoiced in the presence of the Lord in a wonderful atmosphere of worship," said Ayman Kafrouny, one member of the Beirut Nazarene community. "Dr. Gustavo preached on... 'How do you know that Jesus is with you?' The message was so powerful and comforting to the church, especially during this time of turbulence."

The service closed with Communion lead by pastor Jim Goss, and was a time for many to renew their commitments to the Lord.

After the service, the churches enjoyed a time of fellowship before the assembly business.

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# a year in review

## fieldsgrow

For the fifth year in a row, Eurasia is reporting double-digit increases in membership. Following a 34 percent growth in the previous year, some expected it to be difficult to continue growing at a significant pace. However, 14,885 new full members joined the region this year, which represents a net growth in full membership of in 13 percent. More importantly, growth happened in all the fields of the region. Here's the breakdown by fields:

<b>CIS</b>	<b>+6%</b>
<b>Eastern Med.</b>	<b>+3%</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>+9%</b>
<b>Northern Europe</b>	<b>+1.3%</b>
<b>South Asia</b>	<b>+13%</b>
<b>SE Europe</b>	<b>+16%</b>
<b>Western Med.</b>	<b>+3.3%</b>

**= 526 new churches**



## ministerslearn

As the region's educational institutions continue to prepare workers for the harvest, this year saw the largest ordination class in the region's history. Eurasia is expected to double its ordained elders in the next five years.

**4 educational institutions on the region**  
**2,112 students enrolled this year**  
**85 students who graduated**  
**55 graduates who were ordained**

## districtsdevelop

In April 2007, Eurasia launched the District Development Initiative with the objective of all districts in the region growing both qualitatively and quantitatively. As the two-year mark approaches, several accomplishments are evident:

- Four districts in the region attained Phase 3 status: Bangladesh, India Karnataka, India Western Maharashtra and Pakistan. These three districts are the first districts outside of Europe to reach such status and to do so well.
- At the same time, two of the large districts in the region sponsored two new districts which are already outgrowing their sponsoring districts: Delhi District sponsored the creation of India North; India East District sponsored the creation of India Northeast.
- Bangladesh became the district with the most organized churches (692 and counting). Their goal is to have 1,000 organized churches by 2010.
- Thanks to the intentional work of missionaries who trained and developed indigenous leaders, Jordan, the Holy Land and Lebanon were turned over from a missionary to indigenous district superintendents.
- After years of conversations and planning, at the 50th anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene in Germany, the Southwest and Northeast Germany Districts voted to become the Germany District, allowing the churches to develop new synergy and strategy to reach their country for Christ.
- Inspired by a strong desire to be a missional church, the British Isles Districts formed a commission to review the church in Britain. Current decisions will result in renewed vision and streamlined efforts in the UK.
- After 110 years of ministry, the Church of the Nazarene formalized the creation of the India Field with Indian leadership—a first for Eurasia. The selection of Rev. Sunil Dandge as Field Strategy Coordinator is a landmark in the history of Nazarene missions. The child of “compound workers,” Dandge was born at the Reynolds Memorial Hospital, grew up in Washim and Chikli, was educated at Nazarene Bible College, served as a pioneer District Superintendent and college principal and now leads one of the most exciting church movements in the denomination.



## Eurasia Welcomes New Mission Staff



▲ Martin Glendenning joined the Eurasia Regional Office in Büsingen, Switzerland in September as the regional finance coordinator. He earned his BA in accounting and business administration from MidAmerica Nazarene University, and worked for two years at an accounting firm before joining the ERO team.



▲ Doug and Jennifer Mann joined Eurasia's missionary team this fall after the birth of their second child. The Manns served previously as missionary interns in Peru where Doug worked on field finances and administration, as well as field partnerships, and Jen worked with compassionate ministries and coordinated the field's child sponsorship program. They are currently studying language in Albania in preparation for service in Southeastern Europe.

View all Eurasia missionary profiles at [www.wmmobilization.org](http://www.wmmobilization.org) (click on missionary profiles>Eurasia)

## Eurasia Missionaries Retreat from Ministry



▲ Klaus Arnold (European Nazarene College Rector), Cliff Wright (missionary to Ukraine) and Ron Gilbert (South Asia Field Strategy Coordinator) loosen up at Eurasia's 2008 missionary retreat, much to the interest of visiting illusionist Scott Humston. From 26-30 November they and nearly 150 of the region's missionary personnel and families enjoyed a holiday weekend of rest and relaxation—since the event coincided with the American Thanksgiving holiday, a turkey meal became a highlight for many. Games, area tours and fellowship offered a welcome respite from ongoing ministry, while speakers and seminars on managing missionary life equipped them to return to their ministries with renewed strength. "The thing I liked most was the community," said Frank Holleman, a Dutch missionary kid (MK) living in Germany, "meeting new MKs and especially seeing my old friends from other MK retreats. Swimming in the sea



at 11 p.m. [was memorable]. The stuff we did and talked about in the youth services was awesome. I think it [changed my perspective] without me really noticing it. We didn't really talk about being an MK but I think I still learned a lot that I could not have learned anywhere else, just from talking to people who are in the same situation." ♦

## LDI: New Mentorships With Emerging Leaders

from page 1

Northern Europe Field Strategy Coordinator Philip McAlister, who presented sessions at the Netherlands event, "the fact that leaders could be transparent and share personal experiences from their hearts made the event special."

Bangladesh was the first district to host an LDI event. Held in the Dhaka ministry center 1-4 Oct., the gathering allowed 16 individuals who are involved with disaster response, child development or youth ministry in their churches, to continue growing as leaders.

"I was impressed with the spirit of the leaders and their commitment to Christ and to the church, and to serve whatever the cost," said European Nazarene College Rector Klaus Arnold, who joined the session as a trainer. "There was openness to [understanding who you are as a leader], and I felt that this led to a very

good foundation."

India's first LDI event is currently being held in Mumbai, the scene of recent terror attacks. John Haines, Eurasia's coordinator for education and LDI, is there, facilitating the event and sharing in the training with Sunil Dandge, FSC for India, and Diwakar Wankhede, District Superintendent for the Western Maharashtra District. The sessions are reported to be going very well, with 14 emerging leaders and five mentors in attendance.

"I believe this new Leadership Development Initiative, with its focus on intentionally identifying, training, deploying and supporting 1,000 leaders for the Eurasia Region, will have a great impact in India," said Haines.

Seven more districts are scheduled to hold their first LDI sessions in the next several months. ♦

## Notes From the Field

### Nepal • David Shreshtra

There is an anti-Christian group called “Defense Army,” who are very much against Christianity and are leading an anti-Christian movement in Nepal. Recently they have blasted other church buildings in eastern parts of the country.

They came to our church and threatened our pastors and church leaders, and are demanding a heavy donation from our churches. If we do not give them the donation, they are asking our pastors to close down the churches.

We need prayer. I know God is going to do some wonderful works in those areas through the difficulties time and persecutions, but our leaders need God’s wisdom and strength in a times like this.

## EMed: Assemblies Mark New Steps in Field Ministry

from page 1

That afternoon, everyone gathered in a suburb of Beirut to dedicate a new church building, where work began about four years ago, when Andre Hannouch felt a call to the area. Along with the dedication, Hannouch and Ayman Kafrouny celebrated their 2007 ordination as elders in the Church of the Nazarene, since they had originally been ordained out of the country for security reasons.

This year marked a significant transition for EMed as a field as three national leaders were appointed District Superintendents: Andrew Salameh (Lebanon), Wa’el Dawaher (Jordan), and Nizar Touma (Holy Land).

In memory of EMNBC’s first indigenous president, the field also announced the organization of the Raja Nwaissar Memorial Scholarship Fund. Nwaissar died of a heart attack in September at age 40 while baptizing new believers in Beirut.

“Raja’s ministry, both in the local church and the Bible college was encouraging young people to respond to God’s will for their lives,” said EMed FSC Lindell Browning. “He was not only a great pastor but a wonderful teacher and theologian who instilled in others the desire to learn and serve.” ♦

Anyone wishing to contribute to the scholarship fund should contact Lindell Browning or the Eurasia Regional Office.

## Spain Team Shares Children’s Jesus Film With More Than 100 People in Madrid

Madrid, Spain—Two adults, two college students and four teenagers from America came to Spain this month to show the children’s version of the Jesus Film as many places as possible around Madrid.

The team secured a library, teen activity center and local church without any expense, and hoped to show the film to the residents of a nursing home where the church has ministered for more than a year. Residents and staff were excited to see the film, but a few days before the teams’ arrival, the director said “No.”

The team was disappointed, but not discouraged.

Instead, they spent time chatting with the residents. Communication loosed up when the teens started acting out Christmas songs. One team member even gave his cowboy hat to a resident who offered to purchase it.

“More than 110 people saw the film and have now been exposed to the gospel,” said local missionary Kris Ryan. “We pray this seed will take root and grow in their lives.” ♦



▲ A team of Americans shared the Jesus Film in a library, activity center and church for free, and ministered to nursing home residents as well.



## PALCON Grows British Isles Leaders

Swanwick, England—One hundred thirty-five pastors and leaders from the British Isles North and South districts met for their annual Pastors and Leaders Conference (PALCON) in Swanwick, Derbyshire, England from 17-20 Nov. Principle speakers Rev. Ian Wills and Rev. Pete Read addressed “Ecclesia: The Identity & Calling of the church in 21st-Century Britain.” Other seminars on ecclesia-related topics filled the days from 8.30 a.m. to 10.00 p.m., but “everyone that I spoke with afterwards spoke of the sense of challenge and the real need of the church to identify its mission for today,” said Irvine Boal. “There was also a wonderful spirit of fellowship.”



Above: Rev. Ian Wills and Rev. Pete Read  
Below: 135 pastors and leaders from the British Isles districts



# EuNC Restarts Dutch Learning Center



by Debora Güting

European Nazarene College

*Vlaardingen, Netherlands*—Some who gathered in the classroom in Vlaardingen, Netherlands on 11 Sept. were meeting for the first time, but they weren't strangers to one another. The 12 students and their lecturer had already interacted with each other in an online discussion board through European Nazarene College (EuNC) and were now able to connect voices, faces and body language to the words that they had been reading of each other in the online reality. Now, those in one of the first classes in EuNC's Spiritual Formation Programme were to know each other face to face, along with coffee and special pastries.

In the Netherlands, EuNC's level-one programme is developing as a hybrid of online education and traditional class sessions, which began on 1 Sept.

The district initiated a preaching contest, with first prize being a full year of theological training. District Superintendent Rev. Arthur Snijders sees students' new willingness to change their lives and priorities as God's confirmation of the many steps taken towards theological training in the last eight years. He has a lot of hope for the district with this focus.

"Our prayer is that the Lord will shape, through this, a new generation of Christian leaders (clergy and laypeople) with discernment," he said. "We long for our churches and programmes to be well-lead. But we also pray that an increasing number of gifted laypeople will use theological and biblical training to present Christ in the working world."

Paul Brower is one of the new students answering a call into ministry. He is working toward is a Christian Ministry Certificate, and appreciates the teaching atmosphere. "The part I most like is that I felt that EuNC, and my lecturers, all have a real interest and commitment toward the students," he said.

By November, the students were already busy with their third course. At the end of this academic year, the students will have completed 30 ECTS, which is half of the first-year programme.

So far, 16 students have participated in the Netherlands courses. Lecturers come from the district, EuNC's campus or from the wider EuNC faculty through-

out Europe. Classes are held Thursday evening till Saturday, allowing teachers from outside the Netherlands to lead them. The remaining contact hours happen through the Internet.

In January, a group of campus students will join EuNC lecturer Michelle Saterlee in the Netherlands for a combined class with the Dutch students. EuNC also hopes that, at some point, the Dutch students will be able to come to the campus for their intensive class sessions.

"We are thankful for God's working in the Netherlands District, for the raising up of new leadership, for communities and churches to be united in a shared mission to reach out in new ways, for exploring new models of education that transform learners, and for EuNC to be a theological and educational resource to the Eurasia Region," said Antonie Holleman, Academic Dean for EuNC. ♦

**"Our prayer is that the Lord will shape, through [theological education], a new generation of Christian leaders, both clergy and laypeople, with discernment."**

Arthur Snijders

Netherlands District Superintendent

## New Global Missions Magazine Seeks Standout Name

The Church of the Nazarene's new online mission magazine will launch early next year.

### Just imagine:

- Your stories. Your pictures. Your essays.
- Profiles of courage and perseverance.
- Dynamic interviews with fascinating mission workers.
- The latest mission stories and information from your Nazarene brothers and sisters around the world.
- A chance to discover our church's mission strategies, and how we are adapting to global trends and changes.
- A place to connect with brothers and sisters in mission across the globe.

Because you have the opportunity to shape the magazine's content, we also want your suggestions for what to name it.

### Don't be shy. Send us your ideas!

Keep titles short – a couple of words, or even one. We are looking for words in your language that evoke the idea of mission, passion, partnership in something larger than ourselves, or God's desire to draw all peoples to himself through the sacrificial abandonment of His people to the mission.

Please e-mail all ideas to [wm-web-mag@nazarene.org](mailto:wm-web-mag@nazarene.org) no later than midnight on 31 Dec.

## Notes From the Field Bangladesh • Silvia Sinha

One of our brothers comes from a Hindu family. On Nazarene Missions International (NMI) Sunday, 12 Oct., the Bangladesh District NMI President talked about mission goals. She focused on prayer, church relationships and fundraising (tithe and other funds) for mission work. After her preaching, this brother committed to give his tithe to the church and he is continuing. Please pray for him so that he can realize God's eternal love and receive Jesus Christ as his savior.

*"How great you are, O Sovereign Lord!  
There is no one like you,  
and there is no God but you."*

2 Samuel 7:22

## Upcoming Events

15-20 December • Regional Education  
Council Meetings  
Büdingen, Germany

16-18 January • LDI Portugal

19-23 January • European Nazarene  
College Leadership Conference  
Büdingen, Germany

29 January - 1 February • LDI Jordan

4-7 March • LDI Ukraine

24 June - 3 July • General Assembly  
Orlando, Florida, USA

## District Assemblies

4 Jan • Western Maharashtra

6 Jan • Mid Maharashtra

7 Jan • Central Maharashtra

9 Jan • Eastern Maharashtra

11 Jan • East India

13 Jan • Bangladesh

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

## South India Youth Conference Draws 150



Nellore, India—Andhra Pradesh District held a Nazarene Youth Congress from 27-29 October for nearly 150 participants in a city in South India. In conjunction with the theme "Ignite: Lighting Young Minds," district leaders were thrilled when several young people committed their lives to Christ at the event.

"We trust God had really ignited many young minds and made them submit themselves for him," said District NYI President Rev. Joseph Magesh. ♦



## Prayer Requests

• Pray for those affected by recent terror attacks in Mumbai, India. Pray for India and its neighboring countries, for the relationships among them and for peaceful responses to devastating actions. Pray that believers in India would find ways to share the hope of Christ in the midst of pain and mourning.

• Pray for new church plants and re-launched ministry sites in England, Norway, Jordan, Portugal, Switzerland, Germany and Spain. Pray for workers for the harvest and for faithfulness among those serving local churches throughout Eurasia.

• Pray for emerging leaders on the region. Pray that God would reveal and raise up new leaders, that they would have encouraging mentorships, that they will become faithful servants within their churches and districts.

• Please pray for Christian brothers and sisters in India that have suffered violence recently because of their faith. Pray also for those who are ministering to the displaced.

• Pray for the global church as it prepares for General Assembly and Conventions in Orlando, Florida, USA next summer. Pray for wisdom for those leading the organization and for districts who are currently choosing their delegates to the various conventions.

*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](mailto:whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org)*

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EURASIA REGION

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