

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
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CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Eurasian Churches Give Nazarene Centennial Events the Flavor of Several Continents

It's not that Nazarenes need a reason to throw a party—but when one is offered, they're sure to make the most of it. Joining with thousands of congregations around the world for the Church of the Nazarene's 5 October Centennial Celebration was a perfect opportunity not only to enjoy one another's company, but to worship as a global church.

In classic Eurasia fashion, believers across the region gathered with one another, combined events, adapted materials and added their own special flair to the global Centennial service.

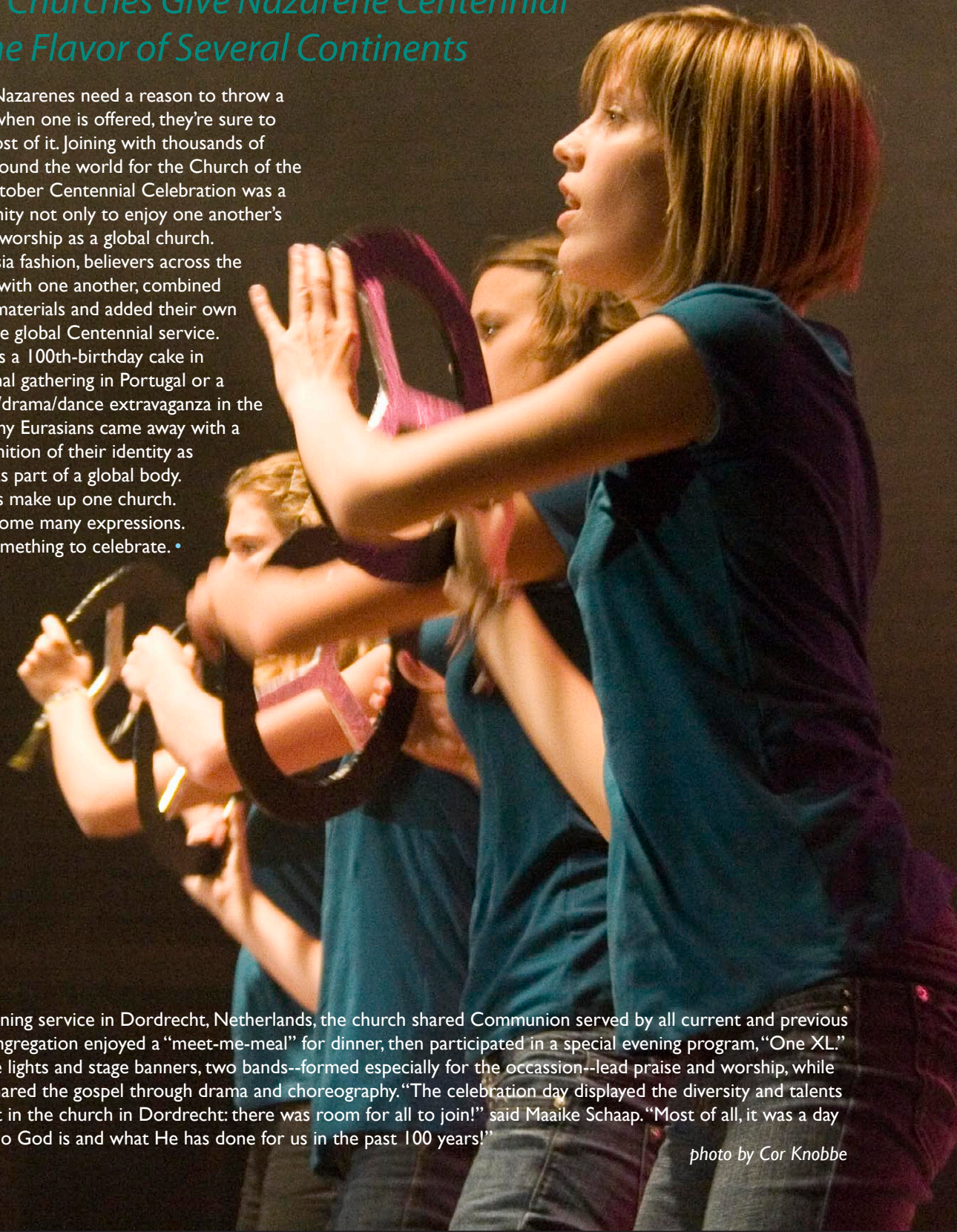
Whether it was a 100th-birthday cake in Pakistan, a national gathering in Portugal or a full-blown music/drama/dance extravaganza in the Netherlands, many Eurasians came away with a newfound recognition of their identity as Nazarenes, and as part of a global body.

Many believers make up one church. From one faith come many expressions. Sounds like something to celebrate. •

JOYFUL

During the morning service in Dordrecht, Netherlands, the church shared Communion served by all current and previous pastors. The congregation enjoyed a "meet-me-meal" for dinner, then participated in a special evening program, "One XL." Beneath theatre lights and stage banners, two bands--formed especially for the occasion--lead praise and worship, while other groups shared the gospel through drama and choreography. "The celebration day displayed the diversity and talents that are present in the church in Dordrecht: there was room for all to join!" said Maaïke Schaap. "Most of all, it was a day to celebrate who God is and what He has done for us in the past 100 years!"

photo by Cor Knobbe



Lushnje, Albania

Food for the Soul

The 19 adults and five children who attended the Centennial service in Lushnje, Albania were a larger group than normal. One couple doesn't attend church, but are open to coming again. "After the service we had a 100-birthday torte, something to drink and other little things to eat. It was a good time to talk with each other," said pastor Elke Kaci. "There we decided to bring to reality thoughts we have had for years: to start a work in Barbullime, a village 10 kilometers away from Lushnje. Two of our young men come from there. Once a month we want to go to the village to start a Bible study. It was a blessed day for all of us."



photo courtesy Steve Beiler

Gottmadingen, Germany

Making Connections

Every last fork was distributed to the 60 to 70 people who stayed for dinner following the Centennial celebration at the church in Gottmadingen, Germany on 12 October. The congregation enjoyed food, fellowship and a presentation about the organization of the church, which included the German district. Elected members of the district advisory board were also introduced.

One attendee commented, "For us it was very interesting to learn about the connections [with the international church] and to see that is much more than just our local church!"

During the service, the full-length Centennial video was translated live into German and sign language, making it possible for everyone in the congregation to enjoy the video together.

-Christa Burmeister



photo by Margot Sutherland



Lisbon, Portugal

A National Party

More than 400 people attended Portugal's all-district event in Lisbon. All evangelical churches around the country were invited, and several sent representatives to the celebration. Youth and children offered special presentations, including a "hip-hop" and a "Hallelujah March" skit. "I was pretty impressed that they translated

the Centennial musical and presented the Cantata in the service," said Eurasia Regional Director Gustavo Crocker, who preached at the service. "A Luz das Nações," a TV program run by Portugal's Evangelical Alliance, filmed the event and interviewed several people following the service. The piece was broadcast on a national TV station.

To watch a clip, visit: igrejanazareno-portugal.blogspot.com

European Nazarene College

International at Its Best

Chapel on 8 October at European Nazarene College (EuNC) marked the actual Nazarene Centennial at Pilot Point, Texas 100 years ago. In recognition and celebration of the event and in conclusion of the EuNC Community Chapel series, faculty member Rev. Mary Schaar spoke and highlighted the beauty of diversity and community within the Church of the Nazarene.

“We serve a church that is international at its best,” she told the college community.

Using overlapping hula hoops to demonstrate, she spoke of how there is room for those from European nations, the United States, African nations, etc. within the Church of the Nazarene. There is room for one foot to be standing in our national background and the other foot to stand among the Nazarene family.

Just as the formation of the denomination was not a splintering from one or more other denominations 100 years ago, but a coming together of holiness congregations, this is relevant and practical today as students come together in a campus community. Schaar noted that Nazarenes celebrate open communion with other believers (it’s not just for members). The church also recognizes baptisms from other denominations. This means that we are not exclusive, something that rings out in a postmodern world.

At EuNC, students and faculty live with each other and practice being in community with international diversity. While EuNC has many learning centers throughout Europe, the EuNC campus this fall consists of students and faculty from 15 different nations.

-Eurasia Centennial Coordinator
Heidi Bowes



NEW LIFE

Candles and a cake emphasized the “birthday” celebration in Pakistan, which brought together 70 people on 26 October. A special children’s celebration gathered 125 young ones for a stage play and a welcome song. NMI and NYI also took an active part, and the women fellowship raised special funds for the program.

South Asia Field Surpassing Their Goals

We knew we did not have a lot of money, but we knew we had something happening in South Asia that is happening in only a few places in the world. We know that a Movement of God is capturing the hearts of thousands of people and new churches are being planted and developed at a phenomenal rate, so we decided to join in the denomination-wide celebration with an emphasis on developing CTMs (Church-Type Missions) into organized churches.

We did not want churches organized unless they were ready, so we entered a year of development. The integrated-ministry approach in South Asia that has Jesus Film and NCM working hand-in-hand with the local and district church has helped.

Many of these newly-organized churches began from small groups that

showed interest and made decisions at a Jesus Film showing. We know it takes much more to show people the scriptural journey of holiness, so the development begins with teaching and demonstrating this new life in Christ. The results of this year’s emphasis are exciting: we exceeded our goals in each area.

In Bangladesh, our goal of moving 100 CMTs into organized churches became 160. In Pakistan, our goal of 40 was realized as 60. Nepal was able to organize 14 churches instead of seven, as we had aimed. Sri Lanka’s six became 11, making 245 new churches on the field (our goal was 153).

The goal for these new churches is now to be an active agent in starting a new church.

It is the prayer of all South Asians that what is happening in South Asia will spread throughout our region and around the world. •

-South Asia FSC Ron Gilbert



MORE

Bangladesh continues to grow, with this year’s 160 new churches offering more to celebrate.





photo courtesy Bob Skinner

SHEEP ON THE LEFT

The youth from Volgograd First Church performed a drama of those Jesus knows on the last day. During the service, a choir from the Seven Winds Church also performed.

Volgograd, Russia

Its Their Birthday, Too

After sharing Communion with their seven local congregations, some 250 people from the churches in Volgograd, Russia added an evening service to the Centennial to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the church in their city. The area's pioneer missionaries, Lonnie and Connie Norris and their eldest son, Nate, even returned for the celebration.

"It was powerful and moving," said CIS Field Strategy Coordinator Bob Skinner. "The five churches that gathered on Sunday evening on the 5th of October met in the same auditorium where the church was originally started 15 years ago!"

Debrecen, Hungary

More Than an Anniversary

Believing that the celebration was worthy to be public, the church in Debrecen, Hungary invited all the churches from the District: on 5 October, Debrecen, Kiszárda, Hajdúhadház and Földes celebrated together. "The day was a real celebration—a family gathering," said Debrecen pastor Miklós Tulipán. "More than simply an anniversary; it was a celebration of 100 years of God's provision in which we strengthened ourselves for the challenges of the next 100 years."

This celebration gave the district a chance to gather items of reference and resources of history for the next generation. The churches compiled a historical timeline and made a film as a reminder of its roots. "We believe that the Centennial is only one of the slides in the long film of God!" said Tulipán.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Hungary churches used the Centennial as a chance to document the history of the church in that country. Reactions? "Now, I know my identity better!" "Now, I understand our history!" and "I am proud of being a Nazarene!"



ONE, AND MANY

"The most striking message of the day was ONE will, ONE intention, ONE celebration," said pastor Miklós Tulipán of the Debrecen, Hungary church.

Gelnhausen, Germany

Three-in-One

Sunday morning was full of celebrations in Gelnhausen, Germany. The congregation joyfully greeted each other as they arrived, anticipating a special time together. On the church Web site, a ticker had accurately counted down the last minutes to the celebration service. And promptly, the service began with a video introducing the Centennial.

It was only fitting that *Erntedank*, or the annual German Thanksgiving, was also celebrated that morning. The calling and conviction to take the message of the gospel and holiness to the ends of the earth was once again tangibly demonstrated through the purpose of the Thanksgiving Offering that was given.

From its beginnings the Church of the Nazarene was known for bringing the hope of the gospel to the poor. The collection of non-perishable foods at the front of the sanctuary was a visible example of how the church sought to impact some of the immediate physical needs around them. The food was delivered to a local food bank that ministers regularly to 1,000 people in their area.

There are roughly 18,000 people in the town of Gelnhausen, the same approximate number of Nazarene churches around the world who were also celebrating 100 years of holiness. The congregation was asked, "In 1908 with a small handful of congregations, would we have imagined what God would do in 100 years through the Church of the Nazarene?" As children, youth and adults were invited to share Communion, the same hope, grace and love that existed in the body and blood of Jesus Christ was once again remembered and celebrated.

This year also marks the 30th birthday of the Gelnhausen church and the 50th birthday of the Germany District. Sunday was not just a celebration of the past, but a celebration of God working in the present, and what he will do in the years to come. •

-Eurasia Centennial Coordinator Heidi Bowes



Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine

Let Your Light Shine

The Russian song the children sang on Sunday is roughly translated:

*When a little light beam starts flashing
God will send a light of hope
Even if the sky is covered with clouds
You will see the sun shining bright.*

*Little light beam
You light up faith and love in heart
Let us be better and kinder,
Knowing that loving God is nearby*

*Let your light get bigger
Because it was started by Christ
See how the night is shining
Covered with light of stars*

*Hurry on to help friends in trouble
Be as a good light to them
May the hearts shine as candles
to all people who are lost in their way...*

This was a very simple, but very significant song. Many of [the children] come from poor, disabled families. Because of that, our Church of the Nazarene, with the main focus on serving unchurched people, has become a real home for many of them, and a place where they have found a new hope and new family in Christ. We as a church shine in this rather bad neighborhood, revealing hope to many.

Many candles symbolize that we are not just a one little church, but that we are a part of big movement of many churches. What we tried to communicate that Sunday is that we are not alone here, we are not just another little church, but that we together with thousands of other churches across the world belong to a huge movement of Nazarene Churches



across the world, the movement of Holiness, which differentiates us from many other Christian churches.

Many of us have come together and were changed by the Light, and now standing together as one united church, Church of the Nazarene, we can light up the world around us together with thousands of other churches and give hope to many who are yet unsaved.

Most importantly, that together we can change our own lives, lives of our families, life of our neighborhood, our city and our whole country.

Oh, by the way, we are going to use the same program this month as we are planning to do outreach in one of the villages where we are praying to have a new ministry started. We believe that is going to be the best way to present who we are to totally new people.

Besides this song and explanation, we have the part where we talk about the Church of the Nazarene, what it means to believe as a Nazarene. It helps people get a bigger picture of who we are, and that we have 100 years of experience, knowledge, theology and tradition behind us. That massive presentation helps people who are living in the great domination of the Orthodox church to understand that we are not just a sect or cult, but a part of a big worldwide movement, with our main driving motivation to be like Christ for far-from-Christ people. •

-Pastor Andriy Takhtay

Zaporizhzhya's Centennial Web Album

<http://picasaweb.google.com/taxtai/ChurchOfTheNazareneZaporizhzhyaUkraineCentennialCelebration#>

Pastor Andriy's Blog

<http://taxtai.blogspot.com>



(We're Online.)www.eurasianazarene.org**EAST INDIA**

as a District gave 10,000 Indian Rupees on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene for the Global Ministry Center.

SPAIN

published a full-color, hard-cover book of the history of the Church of the Nazarene in Spain in commemorating the Centennial.

DENMARK

had a special breakfast together, and in the worship service, four people were received as new members of the Greve church.



The church in Vapnyarka was one of several Ukrainian churches to embrace the 5 October festivities. "Ukraine joyously and creatively celebrated the Centennial of our church," said missionary Cliff Wright.

Ukraine**Meet the Church**

For many of our churches in Ukraine, the Centennial was used a time to re-introduce the church to the community. Dr. Middendorf's message was proclaimed throughout the land. People were invited to the special services and "birthday" meals were shared together.

In the city of Odessa, the occasion was used to officially open our first Church of the Nazarene in this important city. In Vinnitsa, an invitation was given at the end of the service and four accepted Christ as their Lord and Savior. In Kazatin, another man who was invited to the special service accepted Christ.

Many pastors used information

gleaned from our education program to reenact certain historical moments in the Church of the Nazarene. Young and old participated in the services.

It was a time for looking back at what God has done, and ahead to what God is continuing to do. For many of our people who have never traveled out of their villages and towns, they recognized they are part of a global church that is being used by God to bring good news of hope and salvation to people around the world.

Some churches met again in the evening for a celebration meal and shared their vision for the future of their local church. They committed to continuing the legacy of the Church of the Nazarene in bringing the message of full salvation.

-Cliff Wright, missionary in Ukraine

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for newly-organized churches in South Asia, for continued growth on the field and that the resources would be available to mature new believers.
- Pray for believers in areas where being a Christian is challenged by others. Pray for wisdom, grace, strength and courage for those who struggle to maintain their faith.
- Pray for churches who feel isolated, that the Centennial events would help develop a sense of the global church that would remain and strengthen local ministries.
- Pray for continued connections and new support between churches on area, district, field, regional and global levels. Pray that the church would find practical ways to strengthen one another and truly be a global body.
- 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.

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