

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
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What in the World are We Doing?

Thoughts from the Western
Mediterranean Field
by Gary Moore

Life gets in the way of dreams and visions, doesn't it? When we are young, we have great plans and ideas to change the world, or at least make some kind of impact. Then life happens! We have a family; we have to make a living. Suddenly, it seems as if we are more interested in surviving than in living. Every once in a while, we hear a sermon from John 10:10 where Jesus says, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." We somehow relegate this to the spiritual realm and assume it has little to do with our daily life.

The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to "make Christlike disciples in the nations." We who are involved in the kingdom work within the Western Mediterranean Field certainly hope that mandate includes France, Spain, Italy, Portugal and the Azores. If it does, then how do we go about "living" and at the same time make a difference in the world? When we check out Matthew 28:19-20, we read, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations. . ." A more complete translation would read, "Therefore, while going about the daily business of living, make disciples of all nations." In other words, it is in the everyday routine of our life that we are to change the world.

How does this happen?

Paul's second letter to the Corinthians helps us understand how this can happen. He gives us the motivation for living this kind of life when he says, in verse 15, "And he (Christ) died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for him who dies for them and was raised again." When we really believe, understand, and digest that Christ died for us, it changes the reason we live. It is no longer about ourselves; it is

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Caleb Project Ventures Into Second Year South American Church Planting Teams Remain in West Med.

by Victor Pereira
Western Mediterranean

Western Mediterranean Field—Jean Carlo tries to make a new friend every week. As a Brazilian transplant to Catania, Italy, he's found soccer to be a valuable bridge. It's just one way, he's discovered, at least in Italy, to start a church.

"It has been a year of learning, teaching, fights and, what is more important, victories," said Carlo, who is one of nine young church planters from Central and South America who have been volunteering as church planters across the Western Mediterranean Field since October 2007.

A year into the project, there are teams in four cities, based near existing ministries in Spain and Italy.

In Madrid, Jessica Torres (Argentina), Vanessa Cruz (Nicaragua) Irene Quiñones and Maria Eugenia Rodriguez (Mexico) have been steadily building Christian Family Centers (CFCs) throughout the city. Two pairs manage five CFCs each, houses where people are invited to things like Bible studies, discipleship and tutoring sessions for children. They visit nursing homes, schools, friends of friends. They collaborate on district events like summer camps, Vacation Bible School programs and showings of the Jesus Film. In the past year, nine people have com-

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photo courtesy Victor Pereira

▲ Caleb Project teams stationed in Spain and Italy gathered to celebrate and discuss their first year working in the Western Mediterranean Field. Teams, transplanted from churches in Central and South America, use language and sociological similarities between Latin cultures to build relationships with people in their cities of assignment.

Churches Burn, Pastors Killed in India

by Simone Finney
Eurasia Communications

Orissa, India—Ongoing religious tensions came to a breaking point in Eastern India when a Hindi nationalist leader, Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati, was assassinated 23 August in Orissa. Though Maoists claimed responsibility for the assassination, retaliation was aimed at Christians in the area, and the rapidly intensifying violence spread quickly throughout the region and beyond.

In August, Orissa Christians fled to the jungle as many of their homes and churches were burned; Nazarene church

members, pastors, Jesus Film team members and their families, spent days in the jungle. Eighty percent of area Christians lost their homes, belongings and fields.

Most now live in relief camps, but many are being threatened or pressured to reconvert to Hinduism. Camps have been targeted with bombs, and between overcrowding, attempts to poison water supplies and a lack of medical attention, fear and insecurity still prevail.

To date, 21 Nazarene churches have been burned; about 400 Nazarene homes have been destroyed by mobs.

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Eastern Mediterranean Churches Mourn Sudden Death of Jordanian Pastor

by Kay Browning
Eastern Mediterranean

Eastern Mediterranean—Middle East Nazarenes are mourning the unexpected death of Rev. Raja Nwaisser, president of the Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Bible College (EMNBC), who passed away Sunday, 21 September after a massive heart attack.

The Lebanon District had joined together for a baptismal service at the Ashrifayah Church in Beirut; the Jordanian-born Rev. Nwaisser was baptizing a new believer when he suffered a major heart attack and died.

“I know this loss is not just mine alone but it is a loss to all of us,” Nwaisser’s wife Seta told Lindell Browning. “My dear brother Raja was much more to all of us than pastor and President of the Bible College but a true friend, full of love, compassion, and care.”

Rev. Nwaisser was born in Jordan on September 20, 1968. He worked as a police officer after completing high school, until he gave his life to Christ and felt God calling him to ministry. He began studying at the Mediterranean Bible College in Beirut and Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Bible College, later completing his BA at European Nazarene Bible College in Büsingen, Germany.

In 1996 Rev. Nwaisser moved to Beirut, Lebanon to pastor the Sin Ilfil Church of the Nazarene. He attended Beirut’s Near East School of Theology and earned his Master’s of Divinity. Rev. Nwaisser also served as an assistant district superintendent (D.S.) for Lebanon from 1998 to 2006 and was instrumental in building the district from one to three churches.

Rev. Nwaisser had a heart for teaching and developing leadership. He was elected President of EMNBC in 2003, the first national leader of the institution.

He is survived by wife, Seta, and two young daughters, Glory and Holy.

“The wonderful thing about serving here in the Middle East is that I will see Raja often,” said EMed Field Strategy Coordinator Lindell Browning. “I will see him the lives of those that have been so influenced by him. His sermons and lessons and even his jokes—and there were many—will be remembered and retold often. As I saw Jesus in Raja, I will see Raja in those who came to Jesus through him.” ♦



India: Violence vs. Christians Continues

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Three Nazarene pastors have died: one killed and burned, while two others, both leaders of Jesus Film teams in Orissa, were killed by a mob on Friday night, 29 Aug. At least two other church members have also lost their lives.

“We are afraid for our lives and constantly living in fear,” one Orissa Jesus Film team member said. “Please pray for our safety and of many other members whose whereabouts we are unaware of.”

The violence rooted in Jaypore in mid-September when some Hindu students drew unflattering figures of the Christian community on walls and blackboards in a college. Christian students beat the boys who had done the drawings. Mobs developed in both communities; one person was killed. “With the news of death, more violence spread in the area, destroying eight churches and many Christian homes and ministry centers,” said India Field Strategy Coordinator Sunil Dandge.

It continues to grow. To mark districts where violence against Christians is reported by the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI), there’s not much left out. To the east, there’s Orissa, which is still the most affected (300 villages destroyed, 4,300 houses burnt, 50,000 homeless, 57 people murdered, 10 ministers injured, two women gang-raped, 18,000 people injured, 13 schools destroyed). It traveled southwest to Karnakata (19 churches attacked, 20 nuns injured), Kerala (four churches damaged) and Tamil Nadu (one church attacked); to the northwest, Madhya Pradesh has seen four more churches damaged, and Delhi has lost one, despite four attempts.

Nazarene personnel are seeking help from officials, local churches and other Christian organisations to raise resources for relief efforts.

“I am sure our [NCM] teams and resources will be there in time to help the suffering communities in villages,” said Dandge. “Please do pray that the Lord would intervene and stop the violence and spare the minority, neglected Christian community from more harm.” ♦

Those wishing to donate to relief efforts can send funds, noting the account “India Civil Unrest-AMC1600”, to General Treasurer Church of the Nazarene, Global Ministry Center, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220. Online donating is possible at ncm.org

Caleb: South, Central Americans Boost Western Mediterranean Church Planting

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mit their lives to Christ.

“We learned how to live among different cultures as we walk in the street or sit in the bus,” said Torres. “We got used to hearing different languages wherever we go. But the best part of our experience is to serve God full time and have our minds totally dedicated to serving Him.”

In Catania, the church planting team is creating a community center, its focus on serving the city. They hope it will develop into a church; right now, that means keeping their new classes, everything from English to sewing, painting, Bible exploration and computer classes. This is also where Carlo organizes soccer games.

“I have had as much work as I have had joy,” he said. “It has been a time to learn and to love the Italian cultures.”

Farther north in Italy, Pablo and Vivi-ana Tello have been working closely with six small groups at the Florence church: three that speak Italian, three that speak Spanish. One group, with the support of the Florence congregation, may become

its own church, located about an hour and a half away from the city.

They’re celebrating six baptisms this month, marking 15 for the year. This coming year, they’ll continue working with the congregations in Florence, between Sunday School, youth ministry, missions, worship, preaching, visiting, evangelism, discipleship and leadership, and exploring the choreography, drama and concerts that have provided the team new ways to share the Good News.

“Every day we look for a better way to reach people with the good news of the Gospel,” they said. “Although we know that God is the one that does everything. We are doing our best to proclaim the message that we have to share.”

“The Caleb Project has succeeded in bringing young, passionate and dedicated ministers to serve in Italy,” said Joel Mullen, who has helped coordinate the teams in Florence and Catania. “Not only has their service been valuable, but this new life and excitement is an inspiration to existing and future leaders in Italy.” ♦

Western Mediterranean



Madrid, Spain



Lisbon, Portugal



Paris, France



Western Sahara



Azores Islands



FIELD•FACTS

- The Western Mediterranean Field covers 17 countries or distinct areas. With approximately one evangelical for every 180 people, The Church of the Nazarene has about 40 congregations in Spain, France, Portugal, the Azores and Italy, and ministers through Bible studies, Vacation Bible School and Christian Education.
- Historically, the Western Mediterranean was a platform on which danced a number of the world's major powers over the centuries, including the Roman and Moslem empires, and the French and Spanish kingdoms. Catholicism and Islam were dominating religions for hundreds of years.
- Today, this region participates in the European Union, and is host to numerous ethnic groups and religions, with large numbers of immigrants coming from all over Europe, the Middle East and Western Asia.

PLEASE•PRAY

Pray for the new churches being planted in Spain and Italy, and for the Caleb Project team members serving them as the initiative begins its second year.

- Pray for new missionaries Mark and Kris Ryan in Spain, and for departing missionaries Carlos and Noemi Fernandez who are returning to Argentina.
- Pray for successful development of the new leadership training initiative in Portugal.
- Pray for the continued development of European Nazarene College (EuNC) learning centers in Portugal, Spain, France and Italy and for people to be called into ministry.
- For the WMed students at EuNC: Victor, Ben-Oni, Cezarina, Carla, Florentina and Rubi.

WMed: What in the World are We Doing?

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about Christ. Our life is now about what Christ is about.

The fuel for this lifestyle is love. Look at verse 14: "For Christ's love compels us." When we really grasp, or are convinced, as verse 14 states, that Christ died for us, we are turned inside out and our life is no longer centered on ourselves. We do not have to survive, but now we are free to live. It even changes our perspective, "So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view" (verse 16). We are now "a new creation" in Christ.

We get an insight into what God is all about, verse 19, "that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ". That is what our lives are to be about. We do this as we live at home, go to school, go to work, go to play; the daily stuff of life.

We have been given the message and ministry of reconciliation (verses 18 and 19). We have been appointed as an ambassador of Christ (verse 20).

We have our assignment. We have our orders. We have our motivation. The world waits.

What are we waiting for? ♦

Nepal Weathers Worst Floods in 50 Years



photos by David Argabright



Clockwise, from top: Residents of Nepal drag furniture through the floodwaters. An NCM worker speaks to survivors in one of the camps. Waters have risen nearly to the rooftops of homes in some places of Nepal; East India, Pakistan and Bangladesh are also experiencing similar flooding. The flooding has destroyed hectares of crops through Nepal.

by Dilli Suba
NCM-Nepal
&
David Argabright
NCM

Eastern Nepal—Tahir Ansari sleeps on the elevated road overlooking the remains of his house. The Koshi River of Eastern Nepal is currently running through his former home at a depth of five feet.

The Nepalese farmer escaped on 18 August when heavy monsoon rains and lack of repair caused the Koshi's embankment to collapse midday—had it occurred at night, the death toll would have been much higher.

As it is, continuing rains keep the river above flood level, maintaining the country's worst flooding in five decades.

Many roads are now under water--15 kilometers of the east-west highway are impassable and three kilometers are destroyed. Traveling to Kathmandu from the east is impossible, so people must detour 32 hours into India. All commerce in the flooded area has ceased.

Representative of the general destruction, Ansari lost two 55-gallon barrels of harvested rice in the flooding, one barrel of wheat and 280 kilos of jute. The water destroyed three acres of rice paddies on

his land and one acre of rice paddy he planted as a sharecropper.

Throughout Nepal, more than 9,000 hectares of rice paddies, sugar cane, corn and jute have been destroyed.

Like as many as 70,000 others in the country, Ansari's family is in a displacement camp, but he remains on the roadside protecting what is left of his home from thieves.

The refugee camps, established by the government, number 33, the largest of which houses 5,000 people: 433 families there share 200 tents. With only four latrines and a lack of potable water at the camp, there is great concern for general health, but especially 114 pregnant women, 155 breast-feeding babies, and 31 handicapped.

NCM-Nepal is currently developing a post relocation action plan to assist the recovery. ♦

Those wishing to donate to relief efforts can send funds, noting the account "South Asia Flood Relief AMC1549", to General Treasurer Church of the Nazarene, Global Ministry Center, 17001 Prairie Star Parkway, Lenexa, KS 66220. Online donating is also possible at ncm.org.

Portugal Equips Emerging Theology Students Through Field English Camp

Sao Pedro de Cadeira, Portugal—The newest Western Mediterranean students at European Nazarene College are glad they went to camp this summer: for three of them, it opened the door to theological studies.

From 4 June to 25 August, eight students from France and Spain packed their bags for Sao Pedro da Cadeira, Portugal, where West Med.'s first-ever English Immersion Experience (EIE) proved to be a summer of intensive English-language study, geared at helping students pass their English proficiency exam.

Five of the eight students feel a full-time call to ministry, and since European Nazarene College offers its campus courses in English, the language skills were crucial. Of the group, three passed the exam and began their ministerial studies this fall, supported by various scholarships.

"With EIE, I was able to learn to speak and write English in two months and now I am studying completely in English," said Florentina Ene, who began her EuNC studies in August.

EIE was headed by Kyle and Jayme Himmelwright, missionaries to Portugal; supported by a group of volunteers from Olivet Nazarene University in Illinois, USA, the group started each day with devotions before jumping into grammar lessons, guided learning and conversation classes.

"The teacher and the students had a good relationship with others, everyone felt like a big family," said Carla Zavala from Spain, one of the new EuNC students, who also called EIE the best part of her summer.

"We've already had 30-40 people say they want to study English next year, so we're considering the feasibility of offering the courses again next year," said Kyle. "We may even think creatively about it offering it in the four major countries on our field." ♦



photo courtesy Victor Pereira



OUT OF MANY...
many more

The Church of the Nazarene has more than 1.6 million members worldwide.

Nazarene work has been established in 151 world areas.

On any given Sunday, 803,990 Nazarenes go to Sunday School.

Of the 20 largest Nazarene churches, 8 are outside the United States.

Three of the 20 largest churches are in Brazil, including the largest.

The Church of the Nazarene has 788 missionaries deployed throughout the world.

The church has established 56 colleges, universities and seminaries in 40 countries.

More than 40,000 people worldwide are enrolled in Nazarene institutions of higher education.

* According to 2006 statistics

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Nazarene churches around the globe have been preparing for weeks and months to celebrate the historic Centennial of the Church of the Nazarene. The 100th year anniversary will take place on Sunday, 5 October 2008 in more than 18,000 local churches.

Please share with us how your local church chose to join in the celebration. The November issue of *Where Worlds Meet* will feature stories, photos, and reports of how MANY congregations on our region celebrated as ONE. Please send your photos, stories, etc. to

Heidi Bowes at hbowes@eurasiaregion.org.

More information and materials for the Centennial: www.centennialresources.org



“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Romans 12:1-2

7th Russia South Camp Inspires Youth



photos courtesy Chet Marshall

Upcoming Events

5 October • Centennial Celebration
Church of the Nazarene
Local Churches Everywhere

11 October • Nazarene Theological
College Graduation
Manchester, England

18-22 October • Southeastern Europe
Field Conference
Strumica, Macedonia

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



Russia—Young people from Russia South District enjoyed their seventh annual summer camp in August, centered this year on the theme “Love Christ, Burn for Christ and Live for Christ.” Between seminars highlighting the spiritual commitment of John the Baptist and watching the film, “The Passion of the Christ,” several young people committed their lives to Christ for the first time, while others found new inspiration for continuing their journey. A special highlight was the opportunity for youth to spend one day of camp at a nearby water park.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for your Nazarene brothers and sisters in Orissa, India, as well as for the many other Christians that are suffering continued violence at this time. Ask the Lord to intervene and protect His people. Pray for the NCM and Jesus Film staff who are currently preparing to respond and help wherever they can.
- Pray for the wife and daughters of Raja Nwaisser (Seta, Glory and Holy), and for the churches of the Eastern Mediterranean Field who have lost a pastor and friend.
- Pray for congregations around the world as they prepare for the Church of the Nazarene’s Centennial Celebration in October. Pray that it will be a time of encouragement for the global church.
- Pray for the significant flooding in Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. Pray for relief and recovery for those who have lost homes and livelihoods in the devastation.
- 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

Where Worlds Meet welcomes stories, photos and prayer requests. Please send all submissions to the editor via e-mail: whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org

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