

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
YEAR 5, ISSUE 8 • SEPTEMBER 2008

Compelled by Love

Thoughts from the CIS Field

by Bob Skinner

In 2 Corinthians 5, Paul talks about us as Christians being compelled by love—the love of Christ. This love is what motivates, it is what moves us to do what we do. This love changes us, shifting the way we see others and the world around us. Paul says we no longer see with a worldly perspective: we quit seeing things in the world as divided: “Who is for me?” and “Who is against me?”, or *us* versus *them*.

The world around us divides, puts up barriers and walls and borders—but Christ, because of His love, tears these down and helps us see others and the world around us as His creation and His handiwork. We then change our perspective and see it through His eyes as something or someone He died for.

We quit seeing people and situations as a way to ‘get’ something or to use them for our own benefit. The world works that way, and everywhere you go you get measured and are measuring to see what this relationship will do for me, or what I can get from it.

Paul says we don’t act this way anymore, because of the love of Christ. We no longer regard Christ as someone to grant us what we want, and we don’t look at others as instruments to acquire our own ends.

Because we are motivated—compelled—by the love of Christ, we no longer think the same way, and we have been given the ministry of reconciliation: making things right in relationship with God and others and the world around us! This is not just for the called. It is for all that claim Christ as Lord.

Because of His love we can be part of the restoration process in others’ broken relationship with God and with those around them! We all have this ministry. Matthew 5 says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” Peacemakers do the work of reconciliation! We are blessed.

One Mission: Ukraine Hosts Eurasia Youth Second Regional NYI Event Focuses on Kingdom of God



photo by Amy Brown

▲ Roughly 270 young people from 25 countries came together to explore “One Mission” in Kiev, Ukraine.

by Janika Glaser & Simone Finney
Eurasia Communications

Kiev, Ukraine—On Tuesday night, Eurasia’s young people left the auditorium with one mission: to find their homes on a chalk-outlined map of the region, place a lit candle on the location, and step to the concrete around the drawing’s edges.

In the August evening, the lights spread outward: many clustered on Ukraine and its neighboring countries, others grouped through Western Europe and the Middle East, a few sprinkled towards South Asia. For the 280 young people who gathered from 26 countries for this summer’s Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC), it was a virtual image of God’s Kingdom

across their continents.

“I could see that God doesn’t only work in Albania but also in other countries,” said Ergest Biti from Albania. “I felt that God’s Kingdom was present when the pastor invited us to the front [that night]. I heard God, and now I really want to make a difference in my country.”

NYC was designed for young people across the region to connect with Christ and each other as they explored together what it means to be part of the Kingdom of God. Spinning off “one mission,” this year’s global theme for Nazarene Youth International (NYI), the event centered on Jesus’ question: “What is the King-

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Ukraine Children’s Homes Keep Growing

by Steven Vredenburg
Eurasia Communications

Vinnitsa, Ukraine—Though the reign of communism in Ukraine officially ended more than 15 years ago, its legacy lives on in the desperation and despair of its people, evidenced in part by the two million children who live on the streets of Ukraine. This month, a Vinnitsa-based ministry for these children—The House of James—is celebrating its second anniversary.

“Our ministry is to set up family-type homes, up to 10 kids per home,” said Sean Johnson, director of the House of James.

“We give them a family setting: we have a mom and a dad here, they have siblings—it’s a really close relationship.”

The House of James’s second location opened its doors to five children six months ago, though the building is still under construction. The two houses, located just 400 meters apart outside Vinnitsa, draw their name from James 1:27, which says that “religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from

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Love and the CIS

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In the CIS we are particularly blessed as we have the opportunity to bring reconciliation to some very dysfunctional situations and relationships. We endeavor to do this as it relates on a personal level between people and their Creator, and between people and others with whom they have broken relationships. We also attempt to be agents of reconciliation in society. I trust as you read this month's *Where Worlds Meet*, that you will see for yourself some of the ways God is allowing us to reconcile individuals, families, and society. We can do no less, we are His ambassadors, as Paul reminds us, and we want to represent Him well in the CIS. May God bless you as you carry out the ministry we have all been given no matter where we may live, work and have our being!

In Christ,

BOB SKINNER

CIS Field Strategy Coordinator

PLEASE PRAY

- The recent conflict between Russia and Georgia speaks to ongoing political tensions in the area, and has the potential to influence relationships between all the countries on the field. Pray for resolution to the ongoing tensions.
- Russia has significantly tightened its visa regulations for foreigners recently. Pray that this does not complicate ministry more than necessary.
- Pray for the growth and encouragement of churches in Central Asia.
- Pray for those in ministry: that they would be trained, prepared and financed to serve the field as God leads them.

FIELD FOCUS

CIS

commonwealth
of
independent
states



Clockwise, from top left: Red Square in Moscow, Russia. Mushrooms grow across the CIS Field. Tractors help harvest in rural Ukraine. A woman showcases her work at a Russian market.



FIELD FACTS

- The Commonwealth of Independent States comprises 12 countries of the former Soviet Union, plus the nation of Mongolia. These 13 nations cover 10 time zones and represent a wide variety of landscapes and climates, inhabited by at least 60 ethnic people groups, as well as a diversity of religions from atheism to Judaism, Christianity, Islam and even various tribal religions.
- The Church of the Nazarene has been at work in the CIS since 1989.
- There are 65 Nazarene churches in the CIS Field – one for every 4.3 million people.
- The CoTN has opened eight alcohol and drug rehabilitation centers in the CIS, two of which are specifically designed for women.
- There are two children's centers that care for children abandoned or suffering with AIDS, and various teams throughout the CIS working in prisons.

CIS ONLINE:

www.cispartnership.org

NYC: What is the Kingdom of God Like?

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dom of God like? And to what can I compare it?"

In the mornings, short films acted as modern parables to show participants' perspectives on different aspects of the Kingdom, while Tanya Cantarella, pastor of Moscow First Church of the Nazarene, lead devotions encouraging young people to open their hearts for "God's radical challenge."

Participants also attended a variety of seminars on prayer, mission, ethics, youth ministry, holiness and human trafficking. Ana Zhivkova Kostova from Bulgaria said the seminar on spiritual gifts helped her to understand her God-given strengths, and now desires to use these gifts to serve in her church and help build God's Kingdom more efficiently.

"NYC changed my life," said Anastasia Orlyuk from Ukraine. "I learned to put prayer as a priority and found a new desire to read the Bible."

At night the whole group gathered again for further celebration, teaching and challenge. Many participants were affected by the almost-lightless, almost-silent Monday evening that focused on the persecuted church. On other evenings, a variety of preachers from across the region challenged youth to take what they were experiencing at NYC back to their home countries to bring God's Kingdom to Earth.

The size of the event, visa complications, travel arrangements and language logistics all make NYC an enormous undertaking for the region—this is only

the second time attempt; the first being in Bulgaria in 2004—but participants expressed gratitude for the strong sense of community they encountered in Kiev.

"I was overwhelmed by the way that the people loved and respected each other," said Natalia Darska of Poland, a country that joined a regional NYC for the first time, with a delegation of 10 young people and leaders from the two ministry centers in the area.

Despite language barriers, participants formed strong bonds with people from other nations, in some cases conversing for the first time with young people from a country to which their own is not allowed access. The sense of fellowship was visible in daily celebrations as the group sang in multiple languages, prayed together and heard Scripture and testimonies from each field, shared meals and spent free time talking or playing games.

Many left with new insights into their faith and its community.

"I learned that Christianity isn't a personal lifestyle, but that it also is connecting with people," said Scotland's Iain McGookin. "It is great being part of an international church and now being able to put faces to certain areas of the world."

Réka Tulipán from Hungary said she learned about the importance of God's transformation within people.

"The experiences here at the NYC filled me up," she said, "gave me a new boost of faith and energy and simply shook my world." ♦

For more NYC photos, see page 4.

Nazarenes Join WEA Conversation on Contextualization



photo courtesy Dean Flemming

Eurasia Region—What are the scriptural guidelines for telling and living the gospel in the midst of diverse cultural contexts? In what sense may thinkers in different areas of the world develop unique theologies and still be considered evangelical? How can theologians and their theology best serve the needs of the growing local and global church?

These are some of the questions that inspired a recent summit on contextualization in Oxford, England 13-15 August, inviting 12 theologians, Bible scholars, missiologists and ministers to present papers addressing these and related topics. Among them was European Nazarene College lecturer and author Dean Flemming.

Sponsored by the Theological Commission of the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA), presenters' papers touched on issues of globalization, biblical authors' worldviews, and recognizing good theology within different cultures, and the core of the gospel message. Peers offered evaluation and critique of each paper presented.

"It invited people... to deal with the task of contextualizing the gospel in various settings," said Flemming, who presented a paper on contextualization and Colossians. "We had to address how to do that without sacrificing something that's central to the gospel in the process."

This conference was the first of its type hosted by the WEA, and aimed to begin developing materials for teachers, students and other ministers asking similar questions in a rapidly changing world. One goal is to combine the edited papers into a book, to be published in 2009.

"The discussions and interactions with participants from the majority world setting were extremely stimulating," said Flemming, who appreciated the perspectives he received on his paper. "I believe that many people in the world wrestle with the issues that contextualization raises and are looking for parameters in which to deal with them. This is not just theory; it's a very practical part of the work of the church." ♦

Camping With Moses



photos courtesy Irvine Bohl



The Story of Moses was the theme for this year's British Isles North District Children's Camp, held 5-11 July at Whithaugh Park, Newcastleton, in the Scottish Borders. A total of 70 (57 children and 13 helpers) attended, and outdoor activities, crafts and evening get-togethers, were enjoyed by all. David Tarrant effectively linked the coming Olympic Games with the story of Moses, and on the closing night, Rev. Benito Coetzee challenged everyone to be followers of Jesus Christ, and 20 children responded to the appeal. -*Together, BIND Magazine*

one mission
 nyc 2008 kyiv
 (The Kingdom of God is near.)

Russian and Dutch youth make friends on the day trip to Kiev (yeah!)



The NYC band: these guys can rock!



History...



After the conference: mission teams headed to a ministry site in Odessa...



Eastern Med.: one big, late-night family group.



...held kids' clubs in Valin...



Group photo in the rain: chaos, misery, and some super-cool young people



Good times.



...and worked at the rehab center in Kosatin.

House of James

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being polluted by the world” (NIV).

Through family homes, House of James is able to take care of the physical and spiritual needs of the kids, responding quite literally to the call to take care of orphans.

In contrast with most orphanages, children at House of James attend school, sometimes with the help of local tutors; family-style prayer before bedtime; they help in the garden, and are encouraged to do things together.

“The kids are learning how to work as a team, as a family,” said Johnson.

These homes also differ from orphanages because the House of James is a lifelong home. In Ukrainian orphanages, children are sent out on their own when they turn 16. A child at the house of James is welcome to return anytime he or she needs a place to stay.

The Ukrainian government helps to support House of James by providing money for groceries and other necessities. This covers about half the cost of running a house like this, and none of the startup costs. “I’ve never had a regular monthly supporter,” said Johnson, “But the money has always been there. God has been faithful.”

For him, three houses are just the beginning. “We’re hoping to open House of James throughout Ukraine... maybe throughout Europe, maybe throughout Asia... who knows? Maybe Africa too.” ♦

For more information visit houseofjames.org



photo by Steven Vredenburg

▲ The House of James gives street children in Ukraine a home and a family.

100 Years: How Will You Celebrate?

Eurasia Region—“Our Centennial Celebration provides the most significant opportunity we will ever have to reinforce our commitment to our core values,” said Jesse C. Middendorf, chair of the Board of General Superintendents. “This is vital to our future! Let’s celebrate our identity as it is expressed in these values. They are a global expression of our most basic reasons for our existence as a church.”

Local Nazarene churches and districts on the Eurasia Region and around the world have already been preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Church of the Nazarene for several months. On Centennial Sunday, 5 October 2008, Nazarenes in 24 time zones will

celebrate a common doctrine, core values, heritage, and mission together.

We are looking forward to hearing how you celebrated! A special feature in the November issue of *Where Worlds Meet* will tell how your church joined in the celebration. Send pictures, stories, videos, etc. to hbowes@eurasiaregion.org during the month of October and look forward to reading about how Many “worlds meet” as One.

It’s not too late to join the celebration! Centennial resources in many languages are available at www.centennialresources.org.

Lead-up resources for use in your church as early as 14 September are also there. ♦

Where Did Nazarenes Come From?

Q: Where did Nazarene world missions originate?

A: In 1898, mission work began in India.

Q: When did Nazarene higher education begin?

A: 1899. Texas Holiness University was founded, the first of several colleges that merged eventually to become Southern Nazarene University in Bethany, Oklahoma.

Q: What was the forerunner of Nazarene Youth International (NYI)?

A: Circa 1896, Los Angeles First Church began Company E for young women and the Young Men’s Band, later the Brotherhood of St. Stephen, forerunners of today’s NYI.

Q: When did Nazarene publishing interests begin?

*A: In 1912, Nazarene Publishing House was founded, and *Herald of Holiness* began publication.*

Q: When did Nazarene Missions International (NMI) get its start?

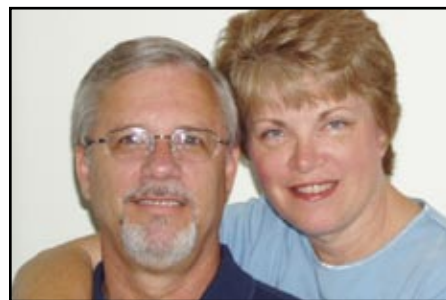
A: In 1915, when the Woman’s Missionary Society was founded.

Q: When did Nazarenes begin utilizing radio to spread the gospel?

A: In 1944, the Nazarene Radio League, now World Mission Broadcast, was authorized. “Showers of Blessing” radio broadcast began in 1945, and “La Hora Nazarena” followed in 1953.

Spain Welcomes...

Mark and Kris Ryan



Mark and Kris Ryan arrived on 16 August as missionaries to Spain. They have served as missionaries since 1985, from Costa Rica to Colombia, Ecuador and Chile, then as Field Director for the Central MAC (Mexico and Central America) Field. For their work in Spain, the couple will be based in Madrid.

Global Ministry Center Relocates

The employees and functions of Nazarene Headquarters (Kansas City, Missouri, USA) will be moving to the new Global Ministry Center (GMC) of the Church of the Nazarene in Lenexa, Kansas, 11-13 September.

The new address and main telephone number for the GMC are as follows:

Church of the Nazarene
Global Ministry Center
17001 Prairie Star Parkway
Lenexa, KS 66220

(+1) 913-577-0500

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

Philippians 3:12-14

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

Sri Lanka Receives Its Second WNW Team



Patana, Sri Lanka—A “triple header” team of 13 people from Living Word Church in Houston, Texas, USA, split their time in the Sri Lankan mountains between construction on a Child Development Center, daily medical clinics, and Jesus Film showings at night DATES.

After a spring 2007 team of Field Strategy Coordinators and their families, who worked on the Hatton tea plantation, this was only the second Work and Witness team to venture to Sri Lanka.

About 20 Sri Lankan pastors worked alongside the team on the construc-

tion project, assisting as interpreters for the medical personnel, and performing their Jesus Film Team responsibilities each night, providing much-needed support. After only four days of hard work, the CDC was ready for the roof; the medical team saw almost 1,000 people in the four days they held clinics; and many prayed a prayer for salvation following the showing of the Jesus Film.

“Every single person worked tirelessly the entire week and found on Tuesday night as they said goodbye that they were leaving a part of their hearts forever in Sri Lanka,” said Betty Crow, a missionary stationed in the country. ♦

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the children’s homes in Ukraine that are expanding their ministry. Pray for resources and encouragement as they seek to provide hope to the children of Ukraine.
- Pray for the young people who attended NYC in Kiev, Ukraine and for the changes begun in their lives. Pray that God will continue to mature and challenge them as they make themselves available to their churches and to their world.
- 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 Mark and Kris Ryan and their new ministry in Spain. Pray that God will prepare and bless their time, and that he will equip them to do his work.
- 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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Transforming Our World: In Christ • Like Christ • For Christ

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