

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
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Nazarene Church Prepares for '100 Years' Celebration

On 5 October, more than 1.6 million Nazarenes will join an estimated 18,000 churches in 151 world areas and 24 time zones to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Nazarene.

The Church of the Nazarene has its roots in Methodism, drawn from the teachings of English evangelist John Wesley (1703-1791). The denomination was established in October 1908 in Pilot Point, Texas, the culmination of mergers of several like-minded groups. The mission of the Church of the Nazarene is to make Christlike disciples in nations.

With a long history of mission work and 20th- and 21st-century advances in communication and transportation, the Church of the Nazarene has deliberately steered an international course. "A century ago, the Nazarenes were an American family with relatives in other countries," wrote Stan Ingersol, the denomination's archivist, in a brief history. "Today we are an international family of districts and congregations planted on each of earth's inhabited continents. No single language, race, or nationality claims a majority of our members."

The Church of the Nazarene now includes graduate theological seminaries in North America, Central America and Asia-Pacific; liberal arts colleges in Africa, Canada, Korea and the United States; nearly 40 theological schools worldwide; hospitals in Swaziland, India and Papua New Guinea; radio broadcasts in 30 languages; and printed materials in 103 languages. At the Church of the Nazarene's quadrennial general assembly in 2001, 42 percent of delegates either spoke English as a second language or not at all.

The oldest Nazarene work in Eurasia dates back to 1898 in India through the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America. The most recent world area entered in Eurasia for Nazarene work is Norway in 2006.

Changing Hearts in Mainz Germany's Newest Church Plant Dreams Big



▲ After a summer storm, the sun sets over the Rhine River along the German city of Mainz.

by Simone Finney
Eurasia Communications

Mainz, Germany—Just before sunset on a Wednesday, the wide riverside tent—seating capacity 300—is beginning to fill. In the corner, a band plays contemporary worship songs beneath a pattern of colored lights on the canvas ceiling; around long wooden tables, people converse over generous portions of sausages and potatoes.

This dinner crowd is an unusual mix for the town of Mainz, Germany: elderly American volunteers, a staff of German 20-somethings, local business people, immigrants, families, teenage punks. But for Philip Zimmerman, pastoring the new Nazarene community here, the tent is

more than a one-time meal: it's church.

"We have the rich and the poor, the happy and the sad, the ones who smell bad, the homeless and the bankers," said Zimmerman. "It's really messy but it's great at the same time because you see glimpses of the Kingdom just striking through."

The gathering is "First Supper," six free dinners that serve as the flagship event for Project: Camp, a week of outreach to the city. At the back of the tent, a small sign reads, "Mehr als satt," a German phrase that means "more than full."

There's more than enough food in the tent each night, but with evening messages from Hans Jürgen Zimmerman,

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Italian Children Reach Out Across Borders

by Sara Mullen
Southeastern Europe Field

Southeastern Europe—They come from different worlds: one from a modern city in a predominantly Catholic nation in Western Europe, the other from a small town in a predominantly Orthodox nation in Eastern Europe. Over the past year, the children's Sunday School class from the Catania, Italy Church of the Nazarene have been involved in a project to help kids in Vidrare, Bulgaria.

Although they have never met, the Catania kids prayed every Sunday for

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▲ Sunday School children in Catania, Italy collected money for a year to support children in Vidrare, Bulgaria.

children in Vidrare, and the missionaries in Bulgaria. The class also put their

"We get messy, the church gets messy, and we all have a great time."



messy church

Jennifer Farthing, Children's Pastor in Carlisle, England talks creative evangelism, what it means to their congregation and how it impacts their community.

What is Messy Church?

Messy Church is our once monthly time for families of all ages to join together in creative worship. We get messy, the church gets messy, and we all have a great time. It is a chance to bring families into church who normally would not come on a Sunday morning; usually these are families who are often already associated with the church in some way with either their kids coming to kids clubs, mums and toddlers, or youth club. Messy Church becomes a tool of being church in a 'family friendly' way.

Why do Messy Church?

We do Messy Church each month to engage with the families in our community. Although we have contact with the kids throughout the week, we don't always have the opportunity with their parents. Messy Church provides a time to give a simple message to all ages.

How does it work?

Messy Church is exactly how it sounds—messy. We chose to have Messy Church on the third Saturday of each month for an hour and a half. For the first hour we do crafts. Each month there is a central theme (Pentecost, Christmas, Easter, mountains in the Bible, specific Bible characters, the "I Am" sayings of Jesus, etc...), and there are at least eight crafts/activ-

ities around the church for parents and children to do together. The crafts vary in difficulty and messiness. All the crafts have to do with the theme of the night and the talk also relates to that theme. Each month the talk is a bit different in presentation although it is always a kid friendly talk. We have found that a short puppet sketch to portray the message works well as the kids always love puppets and don't seem to get bored of them. Before the talk we have two or three songs that the kids enjoy singing at their clubs. Often the kids like to come to the front and lead the motions for the parents. After the talk the "service" ends with a creative prayer of some sort (a bunch of thanks, holly wreath of prayer, balloon prayers) and then we are finished.

What are the benefits?

The Word of God is brought to families in the community who otherwise don't hear it! It isn't about getting people into the church, it is about spreading the good news of salvation. And what better way to spread that news among the parents of your community than through interaction with their kids in a fun and messy way?

What is required?

It might seem like a lot is required to set up and do Messy Church.



But really, all you need is a prayerful heart, a load of craft supplies and a few willing people in your congregation to come alongside and help. On average, preparing for Messy Church takes me the whole of the Saturday beforehand and a couple of hours during the week before to write the puppet sketch and gather the crafts. •

Interview by Momentum UK. Reprinted with permission.

"The Word of God is brought to families in the community who otherwise don't hear it."

Mainz: Germany's Newest Church Plant

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pastor of the Frankfurt Church of the Nazarene, and impromptu conversations that sometimes carry past closing time, there's a not-so-subtle spiritual connotation to the phrase, too.

At the most basic level, Project: Camp is about blessing people. During the day, more than 100 German and American volunteers break into teams and spread through the city. One group sings at nursing homes, another bakes cookies and shares them with local municipal workers, some clean a pond with the local forest service, one group picks up trash, others hand out bottled water and fair-trade bananas at a local university. A music team plays in the streets, people invite anyone they meet to come to First Supper.

"This changed my outlook on what the church should look like and why," said Steven Harris, a volunteer from Colorado Springs, Colorado, USA. "We should be a community of hope for the people of world. And my perspective on how to reach people has been reformed as well. Instead of making excuses or deals with God, you go with the Spirit and just help."

The Mainz church plant, or KIA (an acronym of the German phrase "Church In Action") is an experiment, the team members say, a dream of seeing heaven replicated on Earth in concrete ways. They're trying to count conversations, not conversions. In a year, they'd like to have five weekly German-speaking home groups and two English ones; plus regular events and outreach opportunities for

those who want to serve.

"I liked the vision that church is not in a building," said Kathleen Gröschner, a 26-year-old from Frankfurt who joined the KIA team as a volunteer just weeks before Project: Camp. "I liked the vision of going out on the streets and helping people."

It's been a long summer for the team, and after the final Supper, the team members drag into the dining room of the hotel they're renovating as a living space for the future. "It's like someone moved the finish line," Clinton Ford says, barely willing to look past the week into the coming months. "We're at the end of Project:Camp, but the work's not over."

They don't know that tomorrow, one of the men who attended the meals will ask to be baptized. They don't know that in town, team members will now be greeted enthusiastically by some of the homeless men who attended meals all week. They don't know that at their first service next Sunday night, 75 people will over-fill the bar of the cinema where they're meeting for the next two months.

They don't know what's going to happen with all the conversations they've begun.

They do suspect, with a mixture of anticipation and fear, that it won't be easy.

"Connecting just made it possible for us to start talking with people," said Cristina Sarmiento, a recent MidAmerica Nazarene University graduate who will be working with the KIA plant as a home group leader for the next six months. "This is just beginning for us—that's the exciting part. That's what we've all been looking forward to." ♦

Ready to Celebrate?

Church Begins Preparations for Nazarene Centennial Sunday

"Out of Many One, Out of One Many," the theme of the Centennial Celebration, emphasizes the unity and diversity played out in our historical roots and seen around the globe today in 151 world areas. Just as many holiness groups came together to become one Church of the Nazarene in 1908, today as a church of many cultures, many languages, many races, and many congregations, we are still held together as one by our unity of message and mission.

So that every Nazarene has the opportunity to celebrate this one-time event, extensive materials have been prepared, allowing each church to choose how it would like to celebrate on Centennial Sunday, 5 October. In Eurasia, Pastors' Packets of celebration materials are available in 12 languages to help congregations join the celebration. One packet has been prepared for each church on the region at no charge. (If a pastor or church has not yet received a packet, contact the district superintendent or Heidi Bowes at the Eurasia Regional Office for more information.)

In addition to the Pastors' Packets, further materials in many languages are available for free download at www.centennialresources.org. Some of these resources are anticipate the celebration on 5 October; others are designed to be used even after Celebration Sunday. Some of these include children and youth celebration tools; sermons leading up to Centennial Sunday; communion, baptism, membership, and church planting Centennial rituals; historical information; Sunday School and small group discipleship lessons for early childhood, grade school, youth and adults.

Nazarenes also have the opportunity to participate in a global project. The new Global Ministry Center for the Church of the Nazarene is under construction in Lenexa, Kansas, USA. The staff, working in three buildings at the International Headquarters of the Church of the Nazarene in Kansas City, Missouri, will be relocating to one building—the Global Ministry Center—in time for the Centennial, as approved by the General Board. Eurasia Nazarenes may contribute to the Global Ministry Center by giving to a one-time offering for the building on Centennial Sunday.

Churches are encouraged to begin thinking and preparing now how each will celebrate on Centennial Sunday. ♦

Out of Many, One

We're Nazarenes—but where did we come from? Here's a quick timeline exploring how a denomination came together.

1887-1890 New England: Providence, Rhode Island church, founded in 1887, joins other holiness churches in 1890 to form the denomination's oldest parent body.

1894 Tennessee: New Testament Church of Christ originates.

1895 New York City: Association of Pentecostal Churches of America organizes.

1895 California: Los Angeles First Church of the Nazarene is established.

1896 New England and New York groups unite as Association of Pentecostal Churches of America.

1901 Texas: Independent Holiness Church originates.

1904 Tennessee and Texas groups unite as the Holiness Church of Christ.

1907 Association of Pentecostal Churches of America and the Church of the Nazarene unite as the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

1908 The Holiness Church of Christ joins the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

1915 Pentecostal Mission and the Pentecostal Church of Scotland join the Nazarenes.

1919 Fifth General Assembly shortens the church's name to Church of the Nazarene.

Children at Risk: Eurasia Represents at VIVA Conference

by Heidi Bowes
Eurasia Region

Wheaton, Illinois, USA—There are an estimated 1 billion children today on our planet who are living in “at risk” situations. A child at risk faces malnutrition, abuse, slavery, AIDS, child prostitution, child soldiery, war victimization, preventable diseases, loss of family or primary care-giver, or other dangerous situations robbing the child of a natural childhood. Unfortunately, all of these situations are easily found in Eurasia.

In July, 12 Nazarenes from the region attended the VIVA Network International Cutting Edge 08 Conference for Children at Risk held at Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois.

VIVA is a Christian network of organizations, church bodies and individuals working to bring greater effectiveness in working with children at risk around the world.

Those from Eurasia represented the CIS, Eastern Mediterranean, India, and South Asia Fields, local and district children’s ministries, NCM, child development centers, child sponsorship, school directors, Connecting a New Generation, and the regional office. Other participants represented theological schools, non-governmental aid organizations, churches, non-denominational ministries, children’s resources, training, and literature organizations, foundations, and UNICEF.

From 12 – 17 July attendees met and

learned from others dealing with similar children-at-risk issues, various ministries and approaches, best practice examples from different parts of the world, lead by practical theology in a variety of formal and casual settings. Gustavo Crocker spoke at the conference about networking.

A significant amount of Nazarenes present highlighted the importance of children and youth within the denomination. The 10-year emphasis on children and youth, known as Connecting a New Generation, was shared with the conference as an intentional step taken by Nazarene leadership and lay men and women to value and see children develop into all that God intends. ♦

Catania: Children Minister to Children

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prayers into action by collecting more than 300 Euro by doing small jobs on the church property, baking and selling cakes and by taking a regular offering during Sunday School. This offering will be sent to help the ministry to children in the village of Vidrare, where NCM has been working to support a local primary school for several years.

“Through this project, the children really felt like they were missionaries,” said Mariella Cereda, their Sunday School teacher. “They had a mission and they were able to accomplish it! We praise the Lord for giving us the joy of helping Him!”

Italy District Superintendent Joel Mullen writes, “We are very excited about the Catania children’s initiative to think outside of themselves! We are also excited that this sort of exchange is happening within the region! We hope that we can see this type of active participation in the mission happen more and more in the future.” ♦



▲ A mix of ages enjoy playing games and conversing during free time at the Moscow family.

Scottish Congregation’s Annual Mission Ministers to Children and Youth



photo courtesy Carissa Dickson

by Carissa Dickson
Northern Europe

Irvine, Scotland—The Irvine Church of the Nazarene held its local annual summer mission from 7 to 11 July. A leadership team of mixed ages brought their own talents and experience and showed enthusiasm in activities ranging from dancing to craft activities to sponge-throwing.

Between 20 and 30 children attended the morning Kidz Club over the course of the week, with daily opportunities to take part in arts and crafts, games, music, a bouncy castle and face paint. The children responded well to the activities and

every child who attended the Kidz club learned John 14:6 by memory. Between designing their own t-shirts and getting their feet painted to leave footprints on paper, the children kept busy. One child said that his “favorite bit was soaking myself and Hayley, and making t-shirts.”

One of the parents said that her three children “loved it and the songs have continued at home!”

A two-hour evening Youth Café welcomed 25 young people ages 11-25 for games (a twist on the TV show “Deal or No Deal” let everyone win something), barbecue and a treasure hunt. ♦

*“How great is the love
the Father has lavished
on us, that we should be
called children of God!
And that is what we are!”*

I John 3:1

Upcoming Events

26 July - 1 August • Northbreak '08
British Isles North District
Summer Holiday
Queen Ethelburgas College, York

2-7 August • Nazarene Youth Congress
(NYC '08: One Mission)
Kiev, Ukraine

9-18 August • NYC Mission Teams
Kiev, Ukraine

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

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

German WNW Team Returns to Madagascar



Morondava, Madagascar—“Salama”—
—that’s how the people in Madagascar
greet each other—and that’s how they
welcomed this year’s Germany District
Work & Witness Team in Morondava,
at the west coast of Madagascar. From
2-22 May, the 17 team members from
different Nazarene churches in Ger-
many flew to the island east of Africa,
which is known to be the place “where
the pepper grows” (a German saying,
meaning “an extremely remote spot”).

Based in the west coast of the country,
where the Nazarene Church has just be-
gun to develop a training center for local
pastors on a new piece of land, the team
laid brick, plastered, and worked with a
nearby youth training center.

“In spite of big language and cultural
barriers, our hearts have united with our
siblings in Madagascar,” said one team
member, “and we want to pray for each
other so that people get to know our
common Lord.” ♦

Prayer Requests

- Pray for the regional Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) held in Kiev, Ukraine 2-7 August. Pray for the 300 young people who may attend, for last-minute visa and travel issues, for safety, open hearts and a sensitivity to the spirit of God throughout the event. Pray for the leadership team and for those staying on for mission teams following the event, for the conference center staff and everyone the group will encounter during their time in Ukraine.
- Pray for the KIA church plant in Mainz, Germany and the team of young people reaching out to a new community.
- 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 many children’s ministries throughout Eurasia. Pray for strength, compassion and insight for those who work with children, for opportunities to bless their families as well, and for the children themselves as they grow in their understanding of God’s love and purpose for their lives.

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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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