

where WORLDS meet

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NAZARENE RECEIVES U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT HERO DISTINCTION



Monica Boseff of The Open Door Foundation and her staff and residents met with U.S. vice president Joe Biden's wife, Jill Biden, in May. Pictured from left to right: Vicentiu Patrascu (guard), Betty Chirila (psychologist), Loredana Stanciu (social worker), Kim Vranceanu (board member and volunteer), Monica Boseff, Silvia Tabusca (law professor and advocate for human rights), Simi Cristea (administrator), Cristiana Stanciu (house management), Dan Cristea (guard) and Mirela Podoiu (lawyer).

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

Bucharest, Romania – 21 May, Monica Boseff (center in photo above), the Nazarene who founded and leads The Open Door Foundation, the only emergency shelter for sex trafficking victims in Romania, was honored with the U.S. Department of State's Trafficking in Persons Hero distinction, an annual award that recognizes only 10 people worldwide who are committed to the fight against human trafficking.

The honor was presented to Boseff at the Romanian-American Foundation in Bucharest by Dr. Jill Biden, the wife of the U.S. vice president Joe Biden, in a short ceremony. Boseff will travel in mid-June to the United States to officially receive the Hero distinction in Washington, D.C. when the U.S. Department of State releases its annual

report on global human trafficking.

Boseff told the media who were present that the distinction represented not just her own efforts, but also the work of the shelter's residents and the staff who are dedicated to supporting them.

"Not for a split second have we done anything for any kind of award or recognition," she said. "We're giving our best. That's everything we learned from Christ."

Prior to the ceremony, Mrs. Biden and her team held an intimate 40-minute meeting with the shelter's staff and the seven current female residents in a private location. The guests listened to the women's stories before presenting the residents with personalized gifts, including signed notebooks and silver

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Leaders train in West. Med.

Bombarral, Portugal -- Fifteen representatives from the four districts of the Western Mediterranean Field met 22 to 25 May for a Train the Trainer meeting in which they brainstormed together about common challenges and possible solutions in the areas of church planting, discipleship and evangelism.

The meeting, which was a follow-up to a similar training in 2013, was designed to help resource and equip specialists who would in turn go back to their districts to train and resource others in the three areas, said Kyle Himmelwright, field strategy coordinator.

"There simply are not enough of us to be a support to as many local churches as we have on the field," Himmelwright said. "We realized that for practical reasons – and for just sound missiological reasons – that we needed to invest in local leaders who already have giftedness, experience and contextual awareness in the areas of evangelism, discipleship and church planting."

The participants were chosen by their district leaders to join the training.

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TRAINING: Discussed church planting, discipleship, evangelism



Photo courtesy Kyle Himmelwright

Fifteen representatives from the four districts of the Western Mediterranean Field gathered in late May for a Train the Trainers meeting, which was a follow-up to a previous training held in 2013. The participants discussed topics related to church planting, discipleship and evangelism, and planned to train others in their districts.

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The meeting was facilitated by each district's superintendent, but the training was in a round table format, with guided conversation that allowed the peers to explore the challenges and realities in each district that come with loving people to faith, discipling them into Christlikeness and gathering them into faith communities.

"It's great to see this cross-pollination of leadership-sharing where Italian pastors shared their challenges and ideas with French pastors who did the same with Spanish pastors who did the same with Portuguese pastors," Himmelwright said.

As the training came to a close, the participants were organized into district teams and charged with passing on their new perspectives and ideas to others in their districts. The participants heartily embraced this.

"It would be selfish to take all of this back and just use it for me and my church," said Fred Marius, a pastor in Paris, France, to Brian Ketchum, the facilitator from France. "We have to make it so everyone can benefit from our time together."

In a discipleship training session,

Jayme Himmelwright presented ideas for parents to disciple their own children at home. Daniel Terriat, from the France district, said, "If we can get the families

in our churches to see how important this is, a lot would be taken care of before they even get to church." □



The Western Mediterranean Field.

NTC Manchester receives approval for new postgraduate awards

Didsbury, U.K. -- Nazarene Theological College (Manchester) has launched two new postgraduate awards, both validated by The University of Manchester, and both available at Master's, Postgraduate Diploma, and Postgraduate Certificate levels.

The award in Compassionate Ministry and Humanitarian/Development Practices is designed both for those who work in areas of compassionate ministry or development, and also for those who want to think more deeply about the Church's call to engage in practical areas of social justice. Shaped and tempered by professionals and field practitioners, the college hopes that this course will offer a key place for practical engagement and theological reflection on the implication and implementation of what John Wesley called "social holiness."

"Nazarene Compassionate Ministries is happy to endorse this cutting edge program that places contemporary Christianity in relevancy to today's world, while still being deeply rooted in a Wesleyan tradition," said Larry Bollinger, CEO of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries. "If your relationship with Christ compels you towards bringing God's grace to those in the margins in word and deed (and it should!), then equip yourself for effective ministry at NTC."

The award in Christian Engagement with Islam is an initiative of NTC's Centre for the Study of Christianity and Islam. It is designed to offer a resource for those who meet with Muslims in their life, work or ministry, as well as those interested in reflecting on the Church's response to other world religions. Its two core units (Christian Engagement with Islam, and Studies in Christian-Muslim Apologetics) offer a critical understanding of this increasingly significant subject. The college is pleased to be able to offer generous bursary support for international students who wish to pursue this degree.



Photo courtesy Marlina White

Nazarene Theological College, in Manchester, U.K., has launched two new postgraduate awards available at the Master's, Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate levels. Visit www.nazarene.ac.uk.

"The approval of this award is a significant landmark: we're excited about this opportunity to serve the Church in this key area," said Revd Phil Rawlings, director of the centre.

The innovative design of these awards allows them to be entered at 'Postgraduate Certificate' level: a starting point designed to serve as continuing professional development for those

involved in mission and ministry. Those who wish to do so can then continue to complete the Postgraduate Diploma (with two further units) and the MA (with the completion of a Master's dissertation), allowing a staged engagement that enables students to choose their own end point.

The awards are particularly suited to part-time distance study and, like the college's other postgraduate awards, are open to candidates from across the globe.

For further information about these awards, please visit the NTC-Manchester web site, or contact the admission office (enquiries@nazarene.ac.uk) at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester. □



Photo courtesy Peter Rae

Youth at Easter camp say “Don’t be a maybe”



The week after Easter, 115 youth from across Germany, gathered in Vöhl for their annual Easter camp, the theme of which was “Don’t be a maybe.” The youth attended workshops, worship services and devotionals, played games and enjoyed fellowship.

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

Vöhl, Germany – One hundred and fifteen youth from across the Germany District gathered 21 to 27 April for its annual Easter camp, during which they participated in workshops, worship services, games, meals and fellowship times.

The theme of the camp was “Don’t be a maybe,” and was focused on being committed to a relationship with Jesus Christ. The main speaker, Carl McCann, a Nazarene pastor from England, spoke about the Beatitudes and connected them to the theme.

On the last evening, the worship service concluded as usual, but the leaders spontaneously invited all the youth who were interested to remain afterward and lead continued worship. About 30 to 40 young people remained for another hour, taking over the stage and the instruments.

“Even though it wasn’t the perfect worship service or anything, but it was spontaneous and super cool and pretty

special,” said Denis Biesenbach, from the KiA church in Mainz, one of the camp staff who helped plan the week. “I think it was the first time I experience it like that.”

Berko Hunaeus, from the Seligenstadt Church of the Nazarene, said this was his fifth year at the Easter Camp. He’s planning to go to Auckland, New Zealand, to be a youth worker for nine months in a Nazarene church there, starting in September. The messages during the camp helped to reassure him that God will enable him for this anticipated ministry.

“I always felt that I wasn’t responsible enough for this task but the Easter camp helped me to realize that God is my strength and that I don’t need to be afraid of what tasks lay ahead of me,” Hunaeus said.

For Ricarda Guth, from the Hanau Church of the Nazarene, the highlight was a role-play that was conducted over the course of one day. The youth were

divided into two groups: one group pretended to be masters and the other group pretended to be their slaves. Throughout the day, the “masters” could order the “slaves” to, for example, do 10 push-ups or to bring them some food. Then the “slaves” staged a rebellion at the end of the day.

“All in all the game was very funny because some slaves had to do many funny things, but actually the background was very grave,” Guth said. “Associated to this role-play our camp-speaker... preached about meekness and what it means to be meek and, because of the experiences we had made at this day, we were all able to understand this difficult but very important word.”

Besides learning about meekness, Guth said that the worship services drew her closer to God, and combined with the entire camp experience, helped her to understand God is a being you can have fun with, and isn’t only there for you when “you’re feeling sad.” □

*“Jesus replied,
“What is impossible
with men is possible
with God.”
—Luke 18:27”*

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AWARD: Open Door helped 25 women

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angel necklaces.

“It was just an exceptional time, very emotional,” Boseff said. “I wanted them [Mrs. Biden and her team] to know it’s them [the survivors] you need to focus on, they’re the real heroes.”

Boseff said that Biden was very gentle with the women at the shelter.

“Our girls were thrilled, they felt like princesses.”

When the U.S. Department of State flies Boseff to the U.S. for two weeks in June, they will also send her to Cincinnati and Los Angeles to meet with government officials, journalists and directors and representatives of other similar shelters. The complete schedule is not yet available.

The Open Door Foundation began operations in 2013 and has so far supported 25 survivors. The majority of employees are Nazarene young people who attend the Bucharest Blessings Church of the Nazarene, where Boseff is the pastor’s wife. Today, they fill the roles of psychologist, administrator and

security. And some of the survivors from the shelter have been integrated into the life of the church, participating in youth activities or singing in the worship team.

“When thinking about human trafficking, the easy thing is to stay overwhelmed by the magnitude of the issue and by how awful it is, and think that the church cannot make much of a difference,” said Jay Sunberg, field strategy coordinator for the Central Europe Field, of which Romania is a part. “This is not an option for Monica and the Bucharest Nazarenes. They get involved and begin to make a difference in the lives of dozens of people. It is amazing to see how the Bucharest Blessing church has embraced these people and to see how lives are being changed. What Monica and her staff face on a daily basis is not easy and we need to support them in much prayer.”

To learn more about Open Door, read the Engage magazine articles at, <http://engagemagazine.com/content/bucharest-congregation-integrates-trafficking->

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the Western Mediterranean Field leaders who experienced training last month in church planting, evangelism and discipleship. Pray that they can return and share their new insights, ideas and perspectives with others on their districts.
- Please pray for safety, wisdom, compassion and financial support for the team at The Open Door Foundation in Bucharest, Romania, as they love the survivors of human trafficking who have sought refuge at the emergency shelter. Pray for God to use the Hero distinction to increase the team’s influence and voice against trafficking. Pray also for God’s hand of healing on the survivors.
- Pray for the youth who experienced God at the Easter camp in Germany. Ask God to continue leading them in spiritual maturity, passion and commitment to following Jesus.
- Christ commands us to pray for more workers for the harvest in Luke 10:2: “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (NIV). Pray that God would raise up and equip new workers across the region.

Where Worlds Meet is the monthly newsletter for the Eurasia Region of the Church of the Nazarene. To subscribe, e-mail communications@eurasiaregion.org or visit www.eurasiaregion.org.

We welcome stories, photos and prayer requests. E-mail submissions to communications@eurasiaregion.org

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