

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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Eurasia Global Convention sites go off well

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

It was the first time in Nazarene denominational history for the quadrennial Global Conventions to take place simultaneously in multiple sites globally. For the delegates who attended the two Eurasia sites – Razgrad, Bulgaria, and Hyderabad, India – the first attempt went off well.

For those who attended the regional sites 19-21 June, the gatherings were marked by a sense of intimacy and relationship that seemed unique to these smaller crowds. As opposed to the 25,000 visitors and delegates who congregated in Indianapolis, Indiana, in Razgrad there were 34 delegates as well as 31 other visitors and hosts; in Hyderabad, there were 100 delegates, hosts and visitors.

The delegates in Eurasia – and in eight additional sites around the world – participated in the Global NYI and NMI Conventions through live video transmissions. Members of SDMI watched videotaped meetings from Indianapolis after they had occurred. The delegates voted, commented and discussed live along with their counterparts in all six world regions – despite vast time zone differences.

“Technologically this was an extremely complicated thing,” said Heidi Bowes, the region’s NMI coordinator, as well as the NMI Convention host in Razgrad. “It was incredible to see everyone in 11 places around the world connected with each other. Many of our

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CROCKER BIDS FAREWELL TO REGION



By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

Eurasia Regional Director Gustavo A. Crocker was elected the 41st general superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene Wednesday, June 26, on the 53rd ballot at the 28th General Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana. He began his new duties on August 1.

Earlier this year, Crocker had announced his resignation from the director position he held for 10 years in order to become involved with Nazarene Compassionate Ministries in his home country of Guatemala.

Where Worlds Meet sat down to talk to Crocker about his reaction to his election, and what this means for the Eurasia Region in the coming days.

WWM: What were you thinking and feeling as the voting went on during General Assembly?

Crocker: Rachel and I had an

incredible sense of peace unlike the previous two assemblies. There was an incredible peace because my prayer for a year had been literally, “Lord allow me to listen to your voice and don’t let me be distracted by the loud voice of people.” So the whole time, since the conventions and assembly, before the voting, during the voting, up to the moment that we went on our knees to pray at the plenary, we had a sense of peace and gratitude because we were listening to the voice of the Lord.

WWM: What was your reaction when the vote came in to confirm you as the next general superintendent?

Crocker: I really felt loved by the church. It’s awesome to know you are loved by the church. It was very humbling. I did write a list of reasons

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CROCKER: Feels humbled and loved

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I shouldn't be a general superintendent and I gave them to the Lord, and the Lord said, "You're right, I'm calling you not because of who you are, but because of what I can do through you." When the vote happened, we knew it was of the Lord.

WWM: How has your family responded to this transition?

Crocker: We were not looking for this as a family; we were looking forward to our time in Guatemala. Our daughters Rachel and I – we feel loved by the Church, we feel sent by the Church, and we are honored. The whole family is thankful to the Lord and willing – knowing there is a price to pay: The price of more traveling; we were looking forward to some more relaxed times in Guatemala.

WWM: What does this leadership transition mean for the Eurasia Region?

Crocker: It means an opportunity for the region to have an honest evaluation of how far the region has progressed towards the fulfillment of its mission to develop an indigenous, interdependent, self-supporting, holiness church in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition.

The second is it's a good opportunity for us to review how well we have progressed in indigenizing and developing a broader and deeper leadership in the region.

It gives the region the opportunity to move to the next level. Dr. Franklin Cook built the foundation in which I came and I built; I did not start from scratch. I found a region where there was a foundation, a solid financial foundation, a missiological depth, and I just came and built a strategic foundation. I believe the next leadership will come and move the region from that strategic foundation to be a multiplying region.



Gustavo Crocker (far left kneeling with wife Rachel) was installed as the 41st general superintendent in the denomination, next to David Busic (far right kneeling with wife Christi) who was installed as the 40th.

WWM: What are some of the challenges facing the region and the next director?

Crocker: My plea for those who stay, for the new leadership, and for the indigenous leaders is: Don't let go of the movement of God; don't get your foot off the accelerator, don't slow down. This is not a time to slow down. The enemy at times takes advantage of transitions. That's when the Church gets divided, that's when they look back and get into turf. My prayer is this transition is going to be a time of unity, a time of people to own the movement of God in Eurasia and say this is the time to move to the next level.

The Lord used me to bring Eurasia from 67,000 to a quarter of a million members. My prayer is Eurasia is going to reach half a million members pretty soon. We moved from four Phase 3 districts (all of them in Europe) to 10 Phase 3 districts in the region; from a vast majority of Phase 1 districts to a vast majority of Phase 2 and 3 districts and my prayer is we won't slow down on that.

WWM: What are some of the victories we've had as a region in

the past 10 years?

Crocker: I believe that growth plus maturity is development. I think that the victory we have faced in the region is that not only did we grow, but we also matured. That means we did develop. One of the biggest things for us has been our Leadership Development Initiative (LDI). For us to have the LDI being implemented and to have now about 600 to 700 identified leaders in the region, it's exciting because most of the leaders we are training are younger than 40 years of age, which means that we have church for a while.

WWM: What have been some of your most special moments as director of the Eurasia Region?

Crocker: Sitting around God's table and around a family table with the people of God, whether in India or in the Middle East or in England or in Spain or in Kazakhstan. Truly, everywhere we went, we said, "I could move here. I could live here. I love these people." I think the most special moments were the realization in every corner of the Eurasia Region, every group of people are a beautiful group of people in a beautiful place where we can live. That's how I felt: close to the heart of God because the heart of God loves everybody, everywhere.

WWM: What will you miss most about serving on the Eurasia Region?

Crocker: The people, absolutely the

To read the NCN News article about the election, visit:

<http://www.ncnnews.com/nphweb/html/ncn/article.jsp?sid=10005119&id=10012697>

Read Crocker's acceptance speech here:

<http://www.ncnnews.com/nphweb/html/ncn/article.jsp?sid=10005119&id=10012699>

CONVENTIONS: Connecting globally live

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Delegates at the convention site in Hyderabad, India, connected live through video feed with other sites around the world, including Indianapolis, USA.

delegates only had the option of attending a site closer to home. They were able to enjoy participating and representing their district with every right and privilege that anyone else did at any other site."

The Eurasia Region almost doubled its overall NMI delegation in comparison to the General Assembly and Conventions held in Orlando, Florida, in 2009. And having two more sites to choose from did not reduce the delegation that went to Indianapolis, as there was actually one more delegate to go to the U.S. than in 2009, Bowes said.

"The numbers speak for themselves that it was worth doing."

The numbers weren't the only thing to recommend having sites on the Eurasia Region.

"The biggest thing about the [sites] – I get to know people from different cultures, different countries. We sit and eat together and chat about the youth on our districts," said NYI delegate Jenny Robertson, from the British Isles South District, who attended the Razgrad convention site. Robertson attended General Assembly in Indianapolis as a visitor in 2005.

Padam Subbha, an NYI delegate from Nepal who attended the Hyderabad site said having different site options had other benefits.

"[Having a] closer site in addition to

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Eurasia NYI Restructures

During the Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) Convention the Eurasia Region NYI voted to restructure their regional NYI leadership.

In the past, the Eurasia Region – like other regions – has had both an elected regional NYI chairperson and an appointed regional coordinator. Wielk, who was originally elected to the role of chairperson in 2001, has served in the position of coordinator since 2004.

Three years ago, NYI's global director, Gary Hartke, began to present to the global NYI leaders the idea to reduce the size of the Global Council – making it more effective and also less expensive to operate.

In Indianapolis it was decided that each region should be represented by only one person, and that the process to determine the person would be decided by each region.

"It seemed to have been well received globally initially," Wielk said. "That discussion made us look at what we are doing in Eurasia."

Following the action of the Eurasia NYI caucus during the Global Convention, in the future, the Eurasia NYI field representatives will be working with the districts to present nominations for the position of "Eurasia NYI Leader" to the Regional NYI Council and subsequently the Regional Advisory Council. From the list of nominees, the regional director will be appointing the NYI leader for a two-year period, after which there would be a review by both the regional NYI council and regional director before renewing the appointment or processing a new leader.

The transition to the new structure in Eurasia will take place over approximately one year, to allow time for the new regional director to become familiar with the possible candidates. ▼

TRANSITION: "Don't slow down"

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people. Because that's the Church. This wonderful tapestry of God's creative diversity – that's the part we're going to miss the most. We feel we are being given on loan to the rest of the world by the people of Eurasia.

WWM: What would you like to say to the Nazarenes across the region?

Crocker: I would like to quote to them Acts 20, verse 18 to the end. But particularly verse 28: "Watch yourselves and the whole flock, in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as supervisors,

to shepherd God's church, which he obtained with the death of his own Son."

WWM: Is there anything else you would like to say?

Crocker: I just want to thank the people of Eurasia for the love bestowed upon me and my family. I know the next leadership is going to do well because the people in Eurasia know how to love and they know how to serve and we have all learned it is not our Church but it is His Church and He is building His Church. We will miss them, but I will treasure them in our hearts. ▼



Photo courtesy Robbie Shreffler



Left: The Hyderabad, India, convention site saw 100 delegates, visitors and hosts in attendance. Above: Razgrad, Bulgaria, held at the Razgrad Church of the Nazarene, had an attendance of 65 delegates, visitors and hosts.

SITES: Razgrad included service projects

Indianapolis is better in the context of cost effectiveness, language similarities (to understand the translated version) and visa accessibility.”

Robertson echoed this.

“We could send all four delegates to Bulgaria easily, whereas we would have struggled to send all four of our delegates to Indianapolis.”

Similar to what delegates and visitors were experiencing in Indianapolis, the Eurasia sites also held workshops for all three conventions, worshiped together and networked over meals.

In Razgrad, the delegates had the additional benefit of being able to assist the Razgrad Church of the Nazarene

with some of its community outreach initiatives through a two-hour block dedicated to service projects. Some did work on the church building, while others visited an orphanage for children with disabilities; some visited a home for elderly people with disabilities.

The service projects gave the Razgrad church a boost.

“It makes a good impression on the people of the church,” said pastor Nikolay Kolev. “As a church we have a good standing in the community and this improved it more and more.”

Sarah Dandge reported that delegates at Hyderabad said they had “a new understanding of what it means to be part of a global church,” and that “as a local church, what we do and contribute to global missions through NMI matters and means a lot. It’s important that my local church contributes.”

Meanwhile in Indianapolis, delegates from the Eurasia Region participated in their respective conventions, attended the nightly worship services, met in committees and caucuses and voted during legislative meetings.

Milon Patwary, a district delegate both to general assembly and SDMI, said that a record number of 25 delegates from Bangladesh went to the U.S. It gave them a taste of the larger Church of which they are a part.

“I attended there

because I wanted to meet with the spiritual leaders,” he said. “I am impressed [at] how God is using the Nazarenes to build Church all over the world.”

In Bangladesh, Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries are geared mostly toward children, but Patwary attended workshops that he hopes will help the three districts there begin implementing SDMI ministries for adult discipleship as well.

Rubbing shoulders with 24,999 other Nazarenes from around the world in one place had a powerful effect for Ingrid Boudewijn, an NMI delegate from the Germany District. Boudewijn went back to her church in Gottmadingen with the goal of motivating others to attend General Assembly in the U.S. in the future, even if just as visitors.

“The overall experience is that in this coming together you feel like being a big family and it made me very thankful and happy that I could be part of this big Nazarene family,” said Boudewijn. “You get a broader picture of what the Church of the Nazarene is doing globally.” ▼

New General Board

The following individuals from the Eurasia Region were elected to the General Board for the next four years:

- Sukamal Biswas, minister (DS) – Bangladesh Northwest District, elected vice chair of the General Board
- Philip McAlister, minister (DS) – British Isles North District
- Hans-Günter Mohn, minister – Germany District
- Rob Kegel, lay – The Netherlands District
- Milon Patwary, lay – Bangladesh Northwest District
- Paul Tarrant, lay – British Isles North District
- Sabine Wielk, minister – Germany District, NYI

To see a list of representatives from the other regions, visit: <http://www.ncnnews.com/nphweb/html/ncn/article>.

Regional Advisory Council

The following were elected:

India: Trisha Das, Kim Singson

Northern Europe: Hans-Günter Mohn, Anne Marie Snijders

South Asia: Sukamal Biswas, Milon Patwary

Central Europe: Monica Bosef

CIS: Volodymyr Masyuk

E Med: Sultan Masanat

W Med: Daniel Fink

General Assembly takes legislative actions



Delegates who attended the Razgrad convention site participated in three conventions: Nazarene Missions International, Nazarene Youth International and Sunday School and Discipleship Ministries International Assembly.

Every four years, 1,400 delegates are chosen from districts across 159 world areas to represent the Church of the Nazarene denomination's 2 million members at its General Assembly and Conventions. The delegates discuss and vote on legislation that is brought before them.

Highlights of some of the legislation that was passed include:

- Voted to retain a quadrennial General Assembly, rejecting GA-301, which sought to move the event to every fifth year. (GA-301)
- Empowered the BGS to authorize simultaneous sites for future General Assemblies. (GA-302a).
- Rejected a resolution from the General Board (GA-310a) to change the numerical threshold upon which General Board membership is based by raising the basis of representation from 100,000 members to 150,000. The proposal would have reduced the size of the General Board from its current 48 members to 32.

USA/Canada currently has 20 members on the board and would have had 10 under the proposal, while three other regions would have dropped from six each to four each, and the Africa Region would have gone from six to eight members. The USA/



Canada Region currently is the home of 30 percent of Nazarenes, the South America and Mesoamerica regions together comprise 28 percent of denominational membership, and the Africa Region is home to 26 percent of Nazarenes.

- Added new sentences to Manual 413.10 that ministers "shall convey the sacredness of Christian marriage through careful attention to their own marital state, [and] through all forms of communication," and by offering premarital counseling. Further, that "biblical marriage only exists in a relationship involving one man and one

woman." (CA-705)

- The GA referred a number of resolutions pertaining to changes in the Articles of Faith to the BGS for study by a committee of theologians and ministry professionals. The committee's composition is to be representative of the global church.

- Approved the Scripture Study Committee's recommendation (JUD-800) to provide that

changes proposed in

the church's Articles of Faith would automatically be referred by the receiving General Assembly to the BGS for study by a

committee that includes theologians and ministers representing the global nature of the church. Their report and recommendations will be read at the following General Assembly. If ratified by the requisite number of districts, this becomes effective with the 2017 General Assembly. Numerous resolutions pertaining to the

- A church-type mission may be registered with the general secretary and a clergy member serving as its pastor or associate pastor shall be considered an assigned minister. The church-type mission can be incorporated and report members. (LA-400)

- Provided for church-type mission representation in the district assembly in Manual 201.1 and 201.2. (DA-202)

- Removed the requirement that each Phase 3 district's annual assembly must be presided over by a general superintendent from Manual 307.5. (GA-316)

- Revised the basis for representation at the General Assembly to provide for a somewhat smaller body in the future. The first pair of delegates will be based on the first 4,000 members and additional pairs of delegates will be based on each additional 4,000 members. (GA-318) ▼

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To read the full legislative action taken at General Assembly each day, visit:

<http://www.ncnnews.com/nphweb/html/ncn/article.jsp?sid=10005119&id=10012713>

Philip Weatherill elected Global NMI President

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

Philip Weatherill of High Wycombe, England, United Kingdom, was elected as the global NMI president on the third ballot of the 22nd Global NMI Convention. He succeeds Jennifer Brown of Jamaica, who announced six months ago that she could not serve in that position for another quadrennium.

Weatherill resides on the British Isles South District, where he has served as local NMI president and as district NMI president for 15 years. He was the Eurasia regional representative to the Global NMI Council for eight years including four years as vice president of Global NMI Council.

Weatherill holds a Bachelor of Science degree and a PhD from Dundee University in Scotland. He is employed in the pharmaceutical industry.

Weatherill is married to Laura who shares his passion for missions and NMI. They have a daughter, Jennifer Mann; she and her husband, Doug, are missionaries for the Church of the Nazarene in Eurasia and have three children.

We spent some time talking with Weatherill about his reaction to being elected, about the source of his mission passion, and his vision for NMI now and in the future.

WWM: Were you surprised to be elected as the new NMI president globally?

Weatherill: I was, yes. I was both shocked and humbled. The fact that NMI leaders from around the world should elect me to the position has a humbling influence on the way I feel. I hope and pray I can live up to the trust and confidence they place in me.

WWM: As the first man to hold this position, how do you lead an organization with a history of strong female leadership?

Weatherill: I don't think there's any difference between how a man versus a woman would lead NMI. The important thing is that whoever leads it, whichever gender, they seek God's will for the evolution of the organization so it meets the future needs of the church. That's not gender specific.

WWM: What do you think you bring to this position that is unique to you?

Weatherill: The only answer to that is an English accent! More seriously, my cross-cultural business experience has taught me there's no one-size-fits-all solution. NMI has to look to the future to be sure it meets the future needs of local churches and doesn't leave behind the traditional support base.

My occupational responsibilities are global, so I've had to learn to work with cultures from the more Western right through to the Eastern and Japanese cultures, South American and what I call Mediterranean European and Northern European. Having that cross-cultural experience will really help me in this position because it gives me a wider perspective as I seek to lead NMI.

WWM: Why are you passionate about missions?

Weatherill: As I grew up, my parents exposed me to missions from as early as I can remember. They read the children's NMI reading books to me at bedtime. Missionaries on home assignment used to stay in our home and take an interest in me as a person. As a student I had practical exposure to missions as part of the Student Mission Corp team in the Dominican Republic in 1976. In Scotland I joined the Church in Perth, which has a strong missions tradition.

My wife, Laura, who was also a member there, had also been exposed to that missions environment. Laura has always supported me in my NMI leadership roles. Missions has therefore been a normal part of our Christian lives for a long time. Christianity without missions is like Starbucks without coffee!

WWM: What does your local and district NMI experience bring to this position?

Weatherill: I've learned that everything done at the general and district level must have the benefit to the local church as its end point. The general and district NMI have to be motivators and enablers of the local NMI to achieve mission at the local level.



WWM: What vision or objectives do you want to accomplish in this position?

Weatherill: NMI, as any organization, has to evolve to ensure it continues to be relevant in a changing world with changing technologies without disengaging cultures that are less developed either organizationally or technologically than others, so as to meet the future needs of the church whilst retaining the support of the traditional base of NMI.

NMI is going to have to tackle a challenge that faces the whole church not just NMI: how to communicate with the "I Generation." We as NMIs have to really grapple with, and solve, this issue.

WWM: What are NMI's strengths?

Weatherill: NMI is a grassroots organization. It is the mission's engine of the Church. NMI has a contagious enthusiasm for practical involvement to show the love of Christ to a dying world. That cannot be underestimated or lost. Other strengths are its history of success and the willingness of the leadership to consider change at global, district and local levels.

WWM: What are the challenges facing NMI today in the Eurasia Region?

Weatherill: The Eurasia Region has a broad spectrum of maturity of organization and culture. This leads to

India loses two long-time servants

Arun Yangad, former DS of Central Maharashtra, passes

The Central Maharashtra District in India lost a long-time and well-loved leader on July 2 when Arun “Arvind” Yangad, a former district superintendent and pastor, passed away from a heart attack.

Yangad grew up in a Christian family, serving as the elected secretary at the Washim Church of the Nazarene while still in his 20s. Although his parents longed for him to become a pastor, he initially resisted God’s call, pursuing a career as a physical education teacher. It took a 50-foot fall over a cliff, and then a dangerous confrontation with a demon possessed man before Yangad realized he needed

to obey God’s call and enter ministry.

After completing his education at a Bible college, his first assignment was to restart a church that had closed because of excessive conflict. Experiencing success there, he then took on another challenging pastorate, this time with the goal to make the church self-supporting. When he achieved that too, he expanded into church planting, starting six

churches over 13 years.

In 1989 he was appointed the district superintendent, and served in that role for 18 years. He was followed by his son, Rajiv Yangad, when he retired.

Yangad is survived by his wife, Shirin; their children Rajiv Yangad and his wife



Mona, and their two daughters; son Sanjiv Yangad and his wife Monalisa; and daughter Shraddha Saraf and her husband Nitin and their son. ▼

Read stories about Rev. Arun “Arvind” Yangad that were published in *Engage* magazine:

- <http://engagemagazine.com/content/three-promises>
- and *Where Worlds Meet*:
- <http://tiny.cc/ru1r0w>

Retired missionary Paula Greer spent 47 years in India

Retired Nazarene missionary Paula (Whitener) Greer passed away on July 1, following a stroke. She was 93.

She and her husband, Bronell, were among the longest serving missionaries in the Church of the Nazarene, ministering for 47 years in India.

Paula was born on January 26, 1920, in Duncan, Oklahoma. After graduating high school, she attended Bethany Nazarene College (now Southern Nazarene University) and Oklahoma University, where she earned a master’s degree in foreign languages. While teaching French and German at Bethany Nazarene College, she met her eventual husband, Bronell.

In 1944, the couple headed to India after a five-month delay in South Africa due to travel restrictions.

The Greers served in India for 47

years, focusing on church planting and evangelism.

On the field, Paula worked with literature for both the Church of the Nazarene and the Evangelical Fellowship of India. She also taught at South India Biblical Seminary, ministered to women and children, and traveled with Bronell throughout the country. Together, their principle work was evangelism through revivals.

The Greers retired in 1991 and resumed residence in Bethany, Oklahoma, where they taught at SNU and continued to travel the world. They became involved in the International Friends program at Oklahoma University, hosting several students from India and monthly India nights complete with Indian food.

Bronell passed away in 2004. Paula is survived by her son, Stephen (Trish) of Topeka, Kansas. ▼

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New denominational logo unveiled

At General Assembly, the Board of General Superintendents unveiled the first official logo for the denomination.

The logo is available in multiple languages.

To download the graphic, visit <http://nazarene.org/identity>.

To read questions and answers about the logo, visit: <http://www.ncnnews.com/nphweb/html/ncn/article.jsp?sid=10005119&id=10012668>

Watch a video about the development of the new logo. <http://medialibrary.nazarene.org/media/new-church-of-the-nazarene-logo-english> ▼



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*“Look to the LORD
and His strength;
seek His face
always.”
— Psalm 105:4
NIV*

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NMI: Challenges ahead

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a freshness of ideas. The more mature and organized have to be open to those ideas and not dismissive because of the “it won’t work here” syndrome.

I remember when I came back from Student Mission Corp from the Dominican Republic when a much younger Dr. Jerry Porter (now general superintendent) and Dr. Louie Bustle (retired Global Mission director) who were missionaries there had the “Each One Win One” and “Each One Plant One” ministry strategies. I started to share that message and the immediate reaction was, “That won’t work here.” I think there’s a danger of that attitude when, across a region, there are

different stages of maturity and organization.

WWM: What are the challenges you see facing NMI today globally?

Weatherill: We have a communications challenge. Given the need to use modern technology in order to reduce costs while making sure we communicate effectively globally is difficult. In other words whilst a significant part of the church can deal with electronic communication – downloading information from websites, etc. – we have to remember that that kind of technology isn’t open to the whole of our church. We have to find ways of dealing with that. ▼

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the missionaries and delegates and visitors who have returned home following General Assembly and Conventions. Pray that they will be able to pass on to their churches and districts the sense of family and excitement, as well as all that they learned.
- Please pray for Gustavo Crocker, as he assumes his new duties as general superintendent while continuing to serve as the interim Eurasia Regional Director through August. Pray for God to infill and empower him with the Holy Spirit, and pray also for his family during this transition.
- Pray for the Eurasia Region during the time of transition from one regional director to another. Ask God to maintain the region’s momentum, as well as to guide those who are directing the search for a new director. Pray that the right person will be chosen and accept the call to this position.
- Pray for Philip Weatherill as he assumes his new role as NMI’s global president. Ask God to give him wisdom, direction and discernment as he fulfills his new role.
- “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 mission 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 whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org or visit www.eurasiaregion.org.

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

Dennis Mohn, Communications Coordinator

dmohn@eurasiaregion.org

Gina Pottenger, Editor in Chief
gpottenger@eurasiaregion.org

Gustavo Crocker, Regional Director
gcrocker@eurasiaregion.org

twitter

facebook

vimeo



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Eurasia Regional Office • Postfach 1217 • 8207 Schaffhausen, Switzerland
Phone (+49) 7734 93050 • Fax (+49) 7734 930550 • E-mail whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org