

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

YEAR 10, ISSUE 1 • February 2013

Catania Youth Reach Out

By Gina Pottenger

For the young adults at Catania Church of the Nazarene, Italy, reaching out to the marginalized of their city is becoming a way of life.

The group spends several days a month in ministering to the increasing homeless population, as well as to the impoverished Roma people who live in Catania.

"Jesus told me to do this"

About nine young adults from the church spend one night a month alongside other young people from their city to deliver hot meals, bread and cookies to many of the homeless people who are increasingly turning up on the streets.

The Nazarene young adult group has joined forces with Agape Mission, an interdenominational group ministering in Catania, and the total street outreach group numbers as many as 30 people.

The young people from the Nazarene church pray together, then split into two groups of four or five to distribute almost 40 meals. They talk with the people they meet, ask to pray with them, and find out what their needs are. After several hours, they return to the church to pray again for those they met.

"I want to go out because Jesus told
see Catania • page 3

FRENCH CHURCH ATTRACTS NEW PEOPLE WITH CHANGES



Pastor Didier Vallee and his wife, Shannon, introduced contextualized changes to their church in Montpellier, France, that helped to double its attendance.

By Gina Pottenger

A variety of little – but highly significant – changes in recent years have helped to more than double the Montpellier Nazarene church's attendance of French people from about 20 regular attenders to a core group of 50, plus as many as 20 to 30 additional people on any given Sunday.

For the Nazarene church in France, this progress is remarkable.

The changes in Montpellier, introduced by pastor Didier Vallee and his wife, Shannon, are what missionaries often call "contextualization."

Didier is himself French, and pastored in the Free Methodist Church in France

before becoming Nazarene. He, better than most, understands how the French people think and what they need in a church. This perspective informed the changes at Montpellier church, which included a replaced church sign, a liturgical robe that he wears when serving communion, and his efforts to

provide academic-style theological education to the church members.

Registering as a member of the Fédération

Protestante de France (Protestant Federation of France) and et du Conseil Méthodiste Mondial (World Methodist Council) also helped to give the church credibility as a legal, government-recognized religious group.

The changes in Montpellier ... are what missionaries often call "contextualization."

MONTPELLIER

Contextualization in action

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The changes weren't just limited to titles and memberships, though. Didier began to emphasize liturgy and ritual, as well as to begin an every-other-Thursday Bible study of a decidedly academic nature. These appealed to the French believer's need for competent authority, quiet, reflective worship and an intellectually-oriented faith.

"The rituals reassure them that their pastor is someone who has been taught... for them education is very important," Didier said. "The French start with their logic before it gets down to their heart."

A year ago, when four new couples came from another church, he had an epiphany: He shouldn't turn away people who are spiritually starving.

But it is reaching into their hearts. People are expressing a joy in their relationship with Christ and, in turn, in their lives, he said.

One elderly woman, who started attending the church in the past few years, told Didier, "I finally found my joy in my faith."

She, like some other attenders, came from another church in the city. "We've had quite a few couples coming out of [troubled churches] who have been broken by [despotic] leaders and [here] have found their stability and joy has come back," he said. "The fact that they are in a structured study of the Bible, they've found their peace again."

At first, Didier was troubled by the idea of drawing people away from other churches, even though they were finding the Nazarene church and coming on

their own initiative. He was afraid of encouraging a consumerist mentality that some call "church hopping."

A year ago, when four new couples came from another church, he had an epiphany: He shouldn't turn away people who are spiritually starving.

"When the Lord changed my view of the subject, the church just exploded. Because they found their peace, people around them have seen that and asked, 'Why? What happened? Where are you going?' And they started witnessing again to their friends because they are not ashamed of their church."

Activities have expanded to a monthly prayer meeting, which is attended by 15 to 20 people, a monthly men's breakfast and a theology class, which nine students attend for three hours at a time. The class is training new lay leaders.

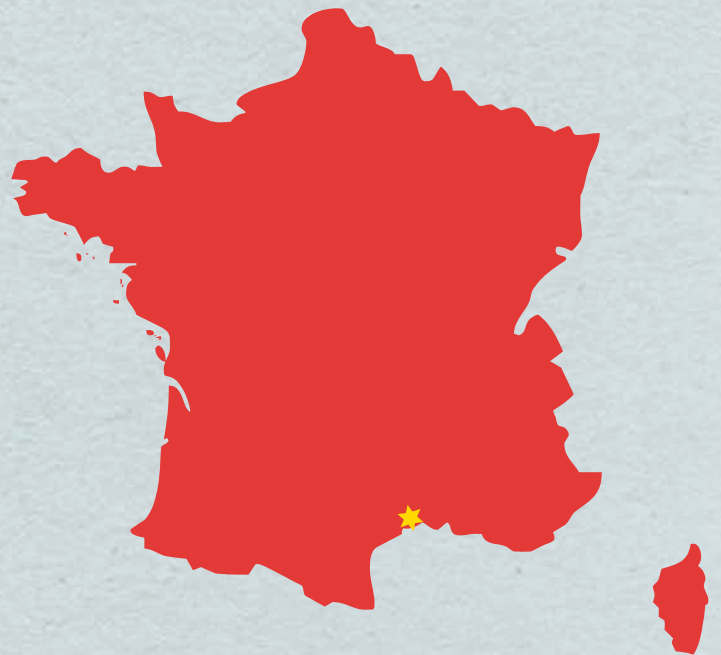
One couple began attending after the husband visited the men's breakfast several times.

"The church services, always edifying and balanced between worship, liturgy, sermons on the life of the spirit, have given me back a taste for church life," said Patricia Meslem. "The silent support (is) filled with love of many at the chapel; the open Bible studies are exciting and allows one to exchange while keeping our own mind. I am peaceful in my heart to invite people because I have a passion to see people 'saved'. I need a solid church, which is a church at all times so that I can invite my friends and my neighbors."

The church building is becoming so packed that they are looking at splitting into two services this winter.

MONTPELLIER FACTS

- 8th largest city in France
- Located on the south coast of France/ Mediterranean
- Population: 255,080⁽²⁰⁰⁹⁾



CATANIA YOUTH

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me to do this, and it should be normal for me to do something like this,” said Daniel Raciti, 21.

One time he met a man named Gianni who had recently lost a job and found himself on the street. His problems convinced Gianni that God could not exist. Raciti and his friends spent some time with Gianni, giving him a hot meal and a blanket and talking. Then they asked if they could pray with him about his situation and for a job.

“The next day he found a job,” Raciti said. “At that moment he started to attend the church and he always say he gives thanks to God for [the youth] and what we do.”

The man attended for a few weeks before he was hospitalized with liver problems due to chronic drinking. The youth are trying to get information on him so they can continue reaching out.

Ester Raciti, 24, met an old Polish woman

“I saw in her eyes a lot of suffering,” Ester said. “She doesn’t speak because she was crying.”

Ester put a hand on the woman’s shoulder and prayed for her, then gave her some tea and food. The woman said no one had done something like this before. Ester hasn’t seen the woman since.

“It’s a real good experience and I do this with all my heart and I know that I can help the people outside the church to meet God,” she said.

“How much mercy He has”

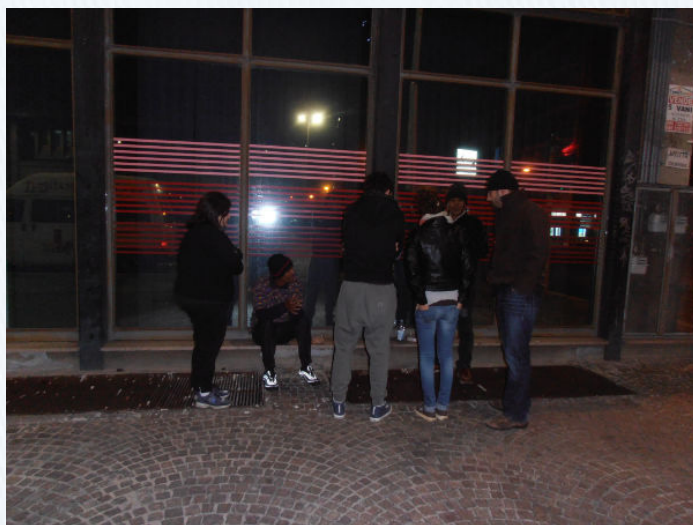
Several of the Catania youth have begun to visit a settlement of Roma people, as well. Before Christmas, the group visited the community to distribute blankets and toys to the children. They also brought medicines for the women, some of whom were pregnant.

“There are too many prejudices against them,” said Azzurra Caltabiano, 29, said. “Knowing them, you realize they are also God’s children. I’ve been able to know God more and more and know much more, how much

She enjoyed playing with the children, who were pleased with the simple toys and played enthusiastically with balloons, which surprised Caltabiano because, she said, Italian children have become accustomed to complicated electronic toys.

In January, the Catania youth met with about 50 representatives from four or five evangelical and Catholic associations to discuss how they could unite in reaching the Roma people in their community.

“We want to build a kind of network, emphasize to people -- non-Christians



The youth pray with anyone they meet who will let them. One man came to church afterward.

or different confessions -- there can be unity among us,” said Giovanni Cereda, pastor of the Catania church. “Usually Catholics and evangelicals, they don’t work together. We saw the beginning of a miracle. This was our first step and I think others will follow.”



Youth go out one Saturday a month to bring food, comfort and prayers to homeless people.

who had lost her job only two days before. mercy He has on people.”



ITALIAN NAZARENES PRESENT HOLINESS AT INTERCONFSSIONAL CONFERENCE

By Gina Pottenger

In May last year, Salvatore Scognamiglio was invited to an interconfessional conference called Together for Europe, organized by a Catholic spiritual movement. At a follow-up prayer time, Scognamiglio, who pastors the Civitavecchia Church of the Nazarene in Italy, was impressed with how the participants exclusively focused their prayers to the members of the Trinity. He felt led to invite these Christian leaders to an upcoming holiness conference he was planning for Nazarenes in Civitavecchia in December 2012.

The conference on December 6 and 7, which saw about 35 people attend, included Nazarenes, Baptists, Orthodox, Catholics and other contacts in town. It focused on Wesleyan doctrine about the work of the Holy Spirit in believers called holiness.

“Our objectives are to let the local Catholics and Protestant people know that we are a Christian church and that we have a message from God that it is higher than a simple conversion or a [religious] life. This message is the sanctification of believers,” said Scognamiglio.

Giovanni Cereda, pastor of the Catania Church of the Nazarene, served as the speaker, because he had recently published his doctoral dissertation, “The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Believer’s Sanctification.” It is the first Nazarene work published in the Italian language.

For many of the Baptist and Catholic lay people and ministers, it was the first time they heard about John Wesley and the principles which he taught, according to Cereda.

“It was a good experience and a good opportunity to solve some misconceptions on the doctrine of perfection,” Cereda said. “Often when we talk about perfection, it comes in the mind of a kind of absolute perfection. We qualified that it is a perfection of love.”

Scognamiglio was thrilled with the reactions of attendees. He said a local Baptist pastor told him “this is what the Church [needs] to discover in this time.”

Cereda said he believes that the denomination’s distinctive emphasis on holiness is timely and relevant for Italians.

“There is much frustration in the life of the people about themselves and their future, and they need the possibility of a new start, and the message of John Wesley on the fullness of the Spirit and the new life that it brings. The people in our pews are really searching for this.”



Pastor Giovanni Cereda's dissertation on the pneumatology of John Wesley is the first Nazarene work to be published in the Italian language.

Find it here:

<http://www.ibs.it/code/9788896867075/cereda-giovanni-d/opera-dello-spirito-santo.html>



Rev. Giovanni Cereda, Catania Church of the Nazarene, Italy

BRIEFS: NEWS FROM AROUND THE DENOMINATION

RETIRED MISSIONARY JEAN DARLING PASSES AWAY

Retired Nazarene missionary P. Jean Darling passed away on Sunday, 13 January. She was 94.

Darling served as a missionary for the Church of the Nazarene in India for 40 years (1945 to 1985).

She studied nursing at Canadian Nazarene College, then midwifery in India.

"As far back as I can remember, I always thought I would go

to India as a missionary, not realizing that it would be a reality," Darling told the Meaford, Ontario, Bethany Church of the Nazarene after her retirement.

"Spent 40 years working at the hospital. God helped me to start the nursing training school in Washim and then other missionaries came. I organized the business office, was sent to the boarding school when missionaries couldn't get out, became mission treasurer, and even director of the mission for a couple of years. One

assignment prepared me for the next, and I always stayed connected with the hospital."

Darling was ill for some time prior to her death. She was a member of London First Church of the Nazarene in Ontario, Canada, and served as a L.I.N.K.S. missionary for the Canada Central District.

The funeral service was a private family gathering on 18 January.

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JOIN THE NAZARENE WORLD WEEK OF PRAYER

The Nazarene World Week of Prayer is an annual event occurring during the week that includes the World Day of Prayer (the first Friday in March). During the week of 24

February to 3 March, Nazarenes will dedicate themselves to interceding for our Church and our world.

Coordinating with the interdenominational World Day of Prayer (Friday, 1 March), the Nazarene World Week of Prayer was begun with hopes that this

event would re-ignite prayer flames, deepen commitment to prayer and fasting, and precipitate revival in our churches and lives.

Be watching for prayer requests



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and praise reports from the six Global Mission regions to be posted on the NMI web site's prayer section - www.nazarenemissions.org/10057/story.html - in five languages (Spanish, Portuguese, French, English and Korean) by February 15.

LIGHTS! CAMERA! ACTION!

Do you want in on the action? The Eurasia Region is looking for volunteers to work in our video production department. Video production volunteers help to create powerful stories of what God is doing to

transform lives and communities across the Eurasia Region.

To learn more about how you can get involved, email whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org.

Power of One ...it's here!

www.missionaleurasia.com



ACCREDITATION GRANTED!

European Nazarene College (EuNC) has received accreditation status for its two programmes, Certificate in Spiritual Formation and Diploma in Christian Ministry (formerly called Certificate in Christian Ministry). The European Evangelical Accrediting Association (EEAA)

council made this decision in their November 2012 meeting. We greatly rejoice in that because it marks a highlight in a process that started in May 2011. Lots of work, many hours and much paper have been invested. The Diploma in Christian Ministry programme contributes to fulfilling the requirements for

ordination in the Church of the Nazarene on the Eurasia Region – which is at the centre of our mission and ministry.

Learn more about EuNC at www.eunc.edu



NAZARENE GLOBAL EVENTS THIS SUMMER! HOW WILL YOU TAKE PART?

There are many ways to participate in the Nazarene denomination's quadrennial global events to take place this summer.

Many have already elected the delegates who will represent them in Indianapolis, USA, on 22-27 June 2013 at the General Assembly.

Others have elected the delegates who will represent them in the Global NMI, NYI, and SDMI Conventions 19-22 June 2013 in Razgrad,

Bulgaria, Hyderabad, India, or Indianapolis, USA.

Still others have decided to attend at least one of these locations as a visitor, to observe the business items, renew and form relationships with Nazarenes from different nations, receive additional equipping for local ministry, and worship with the international body of Christ.

Another way is by praying for the participants, planners, workers, preparations, and events. We want God to have his way in us and in the results from the events. All Nazarenes are challenged to participate in offering millions of hours

of prayer before July in "If My People Pray." (Read more at engagemagazine.com/content/if-my-people-pray)

Some important items to remember:

- Housing forms for all attending in Indianapolis due 21 February, 2013.
- Transportation, housing, and visitor registration forms for all attending at any of the convention sites due 30 April, 2013.
- Contact your district offices for the forms.

WATCH NAZARENE MISSION VIDEOS ONLINE

For a number of years, English speaking churches in the Eurasia Region have been receiving copies of Global Mission DVD, a collection of video mission stories from Nazarenes around

the world. The collection is distributed quarterly. Churches often show the videos in mission-themed services or in small groups or mission meetings.

The format of the package is changing from a plastic DVD case to a paper envelope. While

the DVD will continue to be shipped to the Eurasia Region and distributed to English-speaking churches once or twice a year, all churches can access these videos immediately through the Internet. Every quarter, the videos are posted for download or to watch at the Nazarene Media Library,

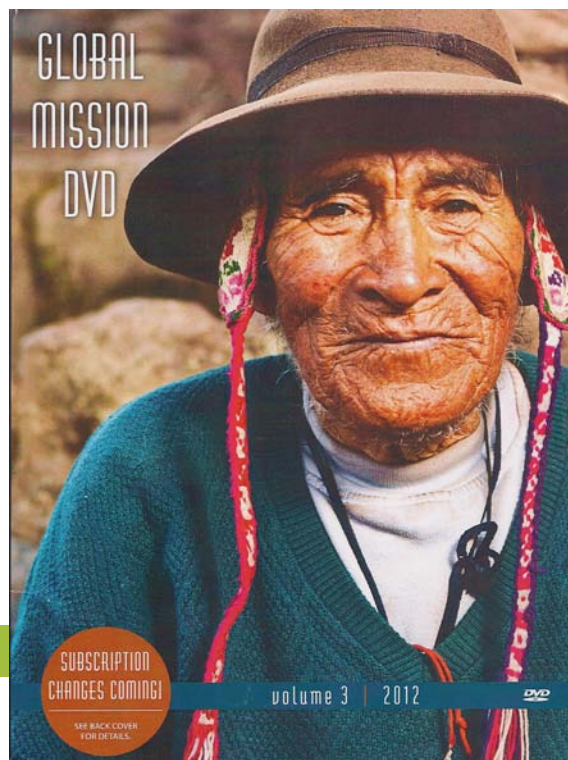
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www.medialibrary.nazarene.org.

NMI presidents may want to download the videos to share in a mission-themed service or Sunday school class. Individuals with a passion for global missions may also have an interest in online streaming these compelling stories of God at work in the people and communities through the Church of the Nazarene.

To look up the stories from each DVD volume, visit http://web.nazarene.org/site/PageNavigator/Stories_Archive and click on the latest volume. It will display the mission story videos from that DVD.



LIVING MISSION

Several years ago, Nazarene Missions International – the public relations heart of Global Mission in every local church – developed an English-language mission curriculum called Living Mission.

This video-based, multi-media kit is designed to provoke thoughtful discussion about the challenges, hard questions and reality of missions around the world today.

Each kit contains six lessons with videos, discussion questions, audio media, hands-on projects called CAUSES, and other resources.

Your church family, NYI groups, NMI, Sunday school classes, or other small groups can use these resources to disciple, involve and mentor future mission leaders



for God's mission in the nations. Living Mission is especially appealing to youth, young adults and emerging generations who are taking on leadership in NMI and missions in the local church.

Living Mission is a resource available for purchase through Nazarene Publishing House, and once purchased, can be downloaded online for use in the

local church.

There is also a section called “freebies” on the Living Mission website where pieces of the curriculum and extras are available to the general public.

Learn more and view video trailers at www.livingmission.com.

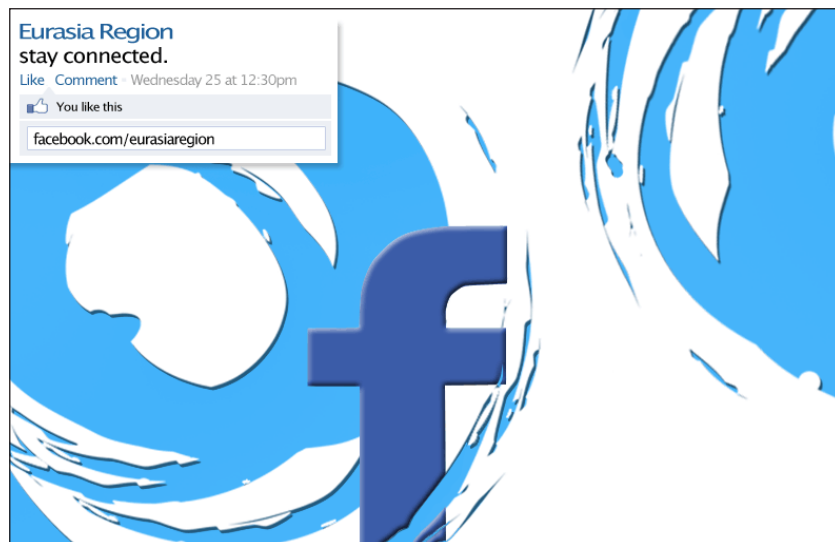
*"Take delight in the LORD and He will give you the desires of your heart."
~ Psalms 37:4 (NIV)*

Upcoming Events

- 21 Feb • Housing Application Deadline for General Assembly
- 23 Feb • Simply Church, Belfast, Ireland
- 23 Feb • SANBC Graduation, Sri Lanka
- 24 Feb - 3 Mar • Nazarene World Week of Prayer

www.eurasiaregion.org

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Prayer Requests

- Please pray for God's continued blessing on the growth and discipleship occurring at the Nazarene church in Montpellier. Ask God to continue bringing people to Christ through the members of this church, and for those attending to continue growing and deepening their faith and love for Jesus Christ.
- Please pray for the youth at Catania Church of the Nazarene, in Italy, as they go out to share the love of Christ with people on the streets and in a Roma settlement. Ask God to give them the words to say, the love to share, and to meet those who need Jesus Christ most. Pray that those who meet the Catania youth will agree to invite Jesus Christ into their lives.
- Please pray for deepening interdenominational partnership among the churches in Italy.
- Please pray for the Holy Spirit breathe a fresh revival -- His power of Pentecost -- into Nazarenes around the world, leading up to and during the General Assembly and Conventions June 19-28, 2013.
- 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 whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org or visit www.eurasiaregion.org.

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

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