

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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Third DS school held in Jordan

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

About 50 people from across the Eurasia Region gathered in Madaba, Jordan, in April for the third District Superintendent Training School. The objectives were to encourage the district superintendents (DSs), as well as to provide opportunities for them to learn from other experienced DSs about leadership and what a vibrant district looks like.

In the past five years, the number of districts led by missionaries has dramatically decreased as indigenous leaders are taking over.

"So you've got a lot of DSs where the district is new and it's the first time they're being a DS," said Brad Firestone, a missionary who helped to facilitate the event. "There are a lot of people who are new to the job and need to understand how to do it well."

District Superintendents Ken Mills, from the MidAtlantic District in the U.S., and Eddie Estep, from South Carolina, U.S., and DS Arthur Snijders from the Netherlands (who is assistant Field Strategy Coordinator for Northern Europe), were the featured presenters, along with Regional Director Gustavo Crocker.

The participants divided into smaller groups based on whether they were missionary-led or indigenous-led and whether their district was new or mature. In these smaller groups they talked about their particular challenges,

SHELTER IN THE STORM

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

A Christian nonprofit organization, directed by Monica Boseff, a member of Blessings Church of the Nazarene in Bucharest, Romania, is planning to open the first emergency shelter in Romania for survivors of human trafficking.

The ministry, Open Door Foundation, purchased a house in December which it is outfitting with rooms for survivors to stay in while they receive medical care, counseling, spiritual guidance and other help to transition back into society.

The organization is already working with seven women and girls from abroad at a temporary shelter provided by another non-government organization, and is in the

process of hiring three full-time staff members from the Blessings church. When all the staff are in place, the ministry will have the director, four guards, a psychologist, a social worker and a house manager.

"My greatest desire is that ... I want this to be a haven of God's grace and mercy for every single victim," said Boseff.

How it began

The organization was originally

called Open Door Medical Foundation, and was started by two American Christian doctors in Bucharest who opened a social work ministry with a medical clinic in 2002 for those who couldn't afford the expensive government-run hospitals and doctors. For many years the clinic helped anyone from poor to wealthy. However, over time, many private doctors and hospitals opened and medical care in Romania improved nation-wide. It became

clear that the medical side of the ministry wasn't needed as much as it had been.

Those who ran the foundation put aside the medical work and began seeking God's direction on

where they could be of most help next.

Then, in June 2011, an American-based nonprofit organization called MATTO, (Men Against The Trafficking of Others), contacted Open Door and suggested they work together to host an awareness campaign in Bucharest about men's role in trafficking.

"We prayed about this and God just gave us tremendous peace, so I said 'Yes, we'll help you.' That was

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Christians, who is
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- Monica Boseff**

NTC MANCHESTER PARTNERS WITH NTC SOUTH AFRICA

MA in Aspects of Christian Holiness

by NTC, reprinted from NCNNEWS.COM

In May, a group of 10 men and women gathered at Nazarene Theological College-South Africa in Muldersdrift for the first course module in the NTC-Manchester Master of Arts in Aspects of Christian Holiness. The participants are already pastors and educators; they already have degrees; and they bring together in one place multiple people-groups of Southern Africa. With them are Drs Dwight Swanson and Kent Brower, faculty members from NTC Manchester, and the class (Biblical Perspectives in Christian Holiness) is the result of a shared dream, a shared passion, and a shared commitment.

The initiative reflects three key characteristics of the Church of the Nazarene: its distinctive doctrine of Christian Holiness; its historic engagement with and commitment to education; and its unique global network of people and of institutions.

The Church of the Nazarene in Southern Africa had a dream: to resource its educated, committed young leaders; to enable them to engage with their own heritage, in their own context; to develop the next generation of educational leaders

in NTC South Africa and the region; and to provide a platform for some to go on to doctoral level work. It's expensive for Nazarenes from Southern Africa to travel abroad for graduate study. And within Southern Africa there are few options at graduate level that allow them to study and be shaped in a Wesleyan context.

The dream started with a conversation: Mark Louw, then Africa

"This partnership makes me proud to belong to a global church."

-- Mashangu Maluleka

REC, was completing his MA in Manchester, and spoke with NTC about bringing the MA to Southern Africa. NTC faculty responded enthusiastically to the idea – so then the search for resources started! The costs are being shared by NTC Manchester, NTC South Africa, the Africa Region, the students

themselves, and some generous donors who have 'caught the vision.' "Nazarene Theological College (Manchester) is a tremendous resource for the denomination," writes Dr Greg Crofford, Regional Education Coordinator for Africa. "I'm excited about the potential of this partnership. It will be one key to equipping emerging Nazarene theologians in Africa, and we are grateful for the collaboration."

Rev Mashangu Maluleka, Principal of NTC-South Africa, wrote this week: "It's no longer a pipe dream, but a reality. This partnership makes me proud to belong to a global church, and provides me with great hope about my grandchildren's future church. Thank you for believing in us and our dream about the future of NTC South Africa, and for investing in that dream."

The MA is delivered through NTC Manchester's partnership with The University of Manchester, and is part of NTC's specialism in Wesleyan Studies and the Wesleyan Tradition.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOTES

Preparations for the 28th General Assembly and Convention 2013 sites at both Hyderabad, India, and Razgrad, Bulgaria, are nearing completion. While the attendance numbers will be somewhat smaller in Hyderabad and Razgrad than in Indianapolis, this provides some additional benefits for the Razgrad and Hyderabad delegates:

- Travel time and expenses will be less.
- They will have more opportunity for renewing and building relationships with people in all the conventions.
- Several activities with all three conventions will take place together, emphasizing the unity of the church.

Some highlights for the attendees in Razgrad and Hyderabad will be:

- Combined convention worship services.
- Combined Convention Global Prayer Event.
- Voting and discussing all convention business with delegates at all sites around the world in real time.
- Meals shared together.
- Local sightseeing trip.

In addition, in Razgrad, there will be an opportunity to participate in the ministry of the Razgrad Church of the Nazarene in a ministry project. Besides just talking about mission, the attendees will have the opportunity to do mission during the convention.

Prayer for General Assembly

"Greetings to Nazarenes worldwide!

"Less than 1 month remains until the 28th General Assembly and Conventions convene. Nazarenes from around the world will gather at the Indianapolis Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

"Delegates and friends from around the world will come together under the leadership of the Holy Spirit in order that we might continue to advance our mission — 'To Make Christlike Disciples in the Nations.'"

"We urge each region, each district, each church, each family, and each individual to accept the challenge to join us in praying for the Lord's guidance at this important gathering."

-- Board of General Superintendents, Church of the Nazarene

SHELTER: Women ask spiritual questions

from page 1

the starting point,” Boseff said.

The only problem was that the two groups had just a week to organize the city-wide event and there were a number of obstacles. For one thing, they had to get permission from the mayor’s office to find a space to rent in the city. One possibility was the main park downtown by the People’s Palace, but until then it had been closed to all public gatherings after a riotous concert left behind trash and damage to the park.

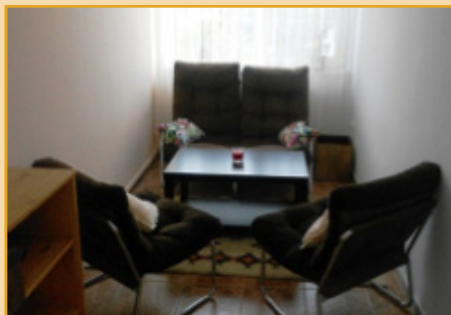
The committee met right away to review Boseff’s request, and their response was shockingly positive.

“It was our unanimous decision to give you the main park for this event downtown,” they told her. “You should have had this event years ago, we need more like this. You can use [the main park] anytime you want for any amount of hours you need.”

They also said they would “rent” the park to the trafficking awareness event at no cost. Boseff viewed this positive response as God’s clear confirmation to Open Door that getting involved against human trafficking was where God was leading the organization.

Boseff talked to other nonChristian NGOs (non-government organizations) as well as the National Agency Against Human Trafficking to find out what the needs were in Romania. Every group said the same thing: they needed an emergency shelter where survivors could stay for up to six months, because there wasn’t a single shelter for this purpose in all of Romania.

So Open Door decided to open a shelter. The house they bought in December has three large bedrooms,



and they’ve put three beds in each room, meaning they will be able to accommodate nine women and girls. When the attic is renovated, it will add four more rooms with space for more women.

‘If it’s not now, when?’

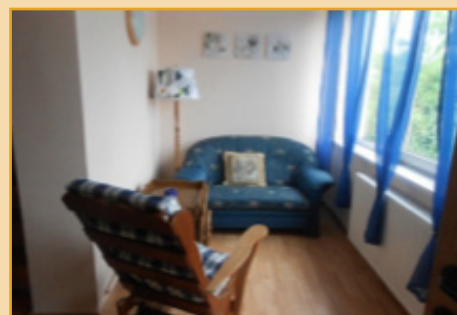
Staff members are already working with seven survivors at a temporary shelter, and they’re learning how to do this kind of ministry.

For instance, they discovered that it’s best not to share about Jesus Christ right away, but to let the women and girls develop curiosity about spiritual things on their own and then come to the volunteers with their questions and prayer requests.

“By spending time with them, cooking with them, going out shopping, laughing with them, crying with them, they turn around ... and ask us ‘Why do you do all this stuff for me?’”

Two of the women asked for reading material, and the volunteers offered to give them some small devotional booklets with short stories, Bible verses and written prayers. The women eagerly accepted the booklets, quickly read them and asked for more.

One young woman asked a staff



member, “How is it to be in Christ? What is it like to have a relationship with God? Can I have a Bible?”

Through her research and spending time with the survivors of trafficking, Boseff has developed an unquenchable passion for the ministry. She quoted figures, such as that there are 27 million people currently in slavery around the world, and that it is the highest slavery rate in the history of mankind.

“Why should I wait until someone that I know that is close to me [is trafficked] before I take action?” she asked. “If it’s not now, when? If it is not us Christians, who is going to tell them that a life can only be restored in Christ alone?” ▼

SCHOOL: Finding mutual encouragement

from page 1

and how they needed to be planning and preparing to take steps in growth and maturity as a district.

“At the DS School I learned more about how to form and cast vision for our district,” said Tamara Hudson, a missionary and a DS for the Romania District. “As we grow and implement healthy structures and systems we need to be clear about our missional purpose. Forming a missional strategy that will guide our efforts is essential so that

we do not lose sight of our purpose of making Christlike disciples in Romania.”

Missionary Nancy Firestone, who helped to facilitate the event, said the participants seemed to learn a lot from one another, and be mutually encouraged.

One evening, the group invited all the Nazarene pastors of Jordan churches for a prayer time with the group.

“That was really special because many of them don’t get a lot of support or see

a lot of outsiders on a regular basis,” Nancy said. “They really seemed to appreciate the support and prayers.”

“These kind of events give us time to reflect on our ministry and to encourage one another,” Hudson said. “It was wonderful to be together with other brothers and sisters from across the region who face similar challenges and carry similar responsibilities.” ▼

CHALTER CHURCH GETS WATER

By NCM CIS

Grace Church of the Nazarene is located in the middle of the small town called Chalter, near a large Russian city called Rostov-on-Don. When the church was just beginning its ministry, they had a well made. But in the recent couple of years, the underground water level dropped, and the church was struggling to get a fresh water supply.

In order for the church to connect to the existing city water supply line, they had to hand-dig a 200-meters (0.12 miles) long trench. Of them about 150-160 meters were going through the territory of the city park. And in order to dig a trench there, one should have a special permit signed by the lead architect of the city. The Lord was good and helped them get all blueprints and permits signed.

NCM International helped to raise funds for the project at \$1,250 (USD) and NCM CIS gave another \$1,250.

Through this giving, the Lord provided the congregation with a fresh water supply. The church also acquired water filters that purify the water for drinking; previously, the church had to buy drinking water in four-gallon jars.

“Our Sunday school teachers and mothers of children are especially thankful, because previously they had to take children outside to use the outhouse, and now they could use the water closet inside the building,” said one children’s worker.

“Every summer we organize camps for children from church and for un- churchd children. We feed children three times per day during the camp. Plus we have refreshments and snacks during the day. Could you imagine how much water we had to bring in every day to cook for and clean after 50-60 children?” said another children’s leader. “It was very challenging for us. But this year ... we won’t have a problem with running water, because now we are connected to the fresh water supply line. And we also have water filters, so that our children can drink clean water.” ▼



The Grace Church of the Nazarene lost its water supply when underground water levels dropped, so the church was forced to connect to the existing city water supply line in Chalter, Russia. NCM International and NCM CIS partnered to provide the funds needed to connect.



Prior to the new water line, children’s workers had to haul gallons and gallons of purchased pure water for the 50 to 60 children they cooked and cleaned for during the children’s camps.



Jordanian layman awarded for education

By Lindell Browning

The Jordan District has been blessed by a key layperson, Mr. Mawia Halasa. Mawia and his wife, Suhayla have been members of the Church of the Nazarene in Kerak, Jordan, since their teen years. He presently serves as the dean of the Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Bible College (EMNBC). In years past he has served the local church, the Jordan District on the school board, and the District Advisory Board. He was also one of the first

translators and coordinators of the Spring of Life Publications, the Arab Literature program for the Church of the Nazarene.

A talented musician and song writer, Mawia uses his gifts to the glory of the Lord. Coming from a family of gifted musicians, his songs have been published and are used by many churches.

When many students throw away old and outdated class notes, Mawia often reminds me that there are notes from one of the classes that I taught in our EMNBC program in Cyprus that he will always keep and use to remember his calling. When he showed me the notebook, he opened to pages where



See "AWARD" • page 6

Power of One

...it's here!



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“O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer of this your servant and to the prayer of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give your servant success today ...”
– Nehemiah 1:11, NIV

AWARD: Second honor

from page 5

there are old water spots. He said, “those are tears that I cried in your class. It was in that class that Lord called me to full-time ministry and I wept tears of joy and submitted to serve Him in your class.”

In his commitment to serve the Lord, he has been led to stay in teaching in a vocational school since 1988. In 2006, the queen of Jordan, Queen Rania, presented Mawia with the Excellence in Education Award. He also received a scholarship to do some additional training in the USA at George Washington University in Seattle.

His most recent award is the

“Expert in Education” presented in March 2013. He serves the Lord and his country faithfully.

His academic background is as follows: a Bachelor of Mechanical engineering, 1987 in Romania. He continued studying for a diploma in Education (1992) and Master in Educational psychology 2012 in his home country of Jordan. His diploma in Biblical Studies from EMNBC in 1998 qualified him to enroll and complete a Masters in Biblical Studies at the Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary in 2002. ▼

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Prayer Requests

- Please pray the staff, director and women of the trafficking shelter that recently opened in Bucharest, Romania. Pray for God to bless the ministry in its material needs, as well as to bring spiritual and physical healing to the victims of trafficking.
- Please pray for God to continue blessing and using the people and ministry of the Grace Church of the Nazarene, in Chalder, Russia as they minister to children and their families in their community.
- Please pray for the Holy Spirit to breathe a fresh revival – His power of Pentecost – into Nazarenes around the world, leading up to and during the General Assembly and Conventions 19-27 June, 2013.
- Please pray for God to empower and inspire the 50 district superintendents who recently attended continuing education in Jordan. Ask God to help them carry out everything they learned as they lead their districts in the coming days.

“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.

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