

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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Parents & toddlers group starts in Ireland

By Gina Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

Wicklow, Republic of Ireland

– On February 21, missionaries Stephen and Annette Morley launched a parents and toddlers group in Wicklow, the town in Republic of Ireland where, for the past year and half, they have been building relationships and contacts with the objective to begin meeting needs in the community as the Church of the Nazarene.

They held a test meeting with three families on February 7, to test the waters before the official start date. The Morleys are requesting prayer for the February 21 meeting – that God would send families and bless the new group.

In Ireland, parents and toddler groups are gatherings in which the toddlers learn to play together while parents chat over tea, coffee and biscuits. Although two such groups already meet in Wicklow, there is more than enough need for another group.

“I have spoken with a number of different individuals in town, [such as] shop owners who said, ‘When you start, let us know. We’ve got some people we think would love to come,’” Stephen said.

In 2012 the couple assisted with the Greystones Church of the Nazarene’s parents and toddlers group so they could learn how such a program is run. The Greystones church is the only Nazarene church in Republic of Ireland, located about 45 minutes

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NYI MAKING CHRISTLIKE DISCIPLES IN BANGLADESH

By Milton Madhu

Christlikeness is not only to be like Jesus Christ but it is to be a channel of blessing for others through Christ. But nowadays, there is a need for leadership in the Bangladesh churches. They are crying for true leaders who will be like Christ and become a blessing of God for others.

The country needs real leaders who have vision for children, churches and society. People can trust in those leaders for their honesty, faithfulness to God, knowledge and their commitment to the society. Leaders are needed who are not only looking for their own success but significance; not for commendation but commitment; not for recognition but responsibility; not for their own benefit but for making a positive impact on the society.

The Church of the Nazarene felt the need of encouraging the young generation leaders to seek for God’s guidance, learn from their mentors, build up one another in the service of God, as well as to get them to know about God’s plan for them in the ministry. In connection with this, the Church of the Nazarene organized the NYI Regional Conference 2012 at

AG Church, Rupsha, Khulna from 27-29 November, 2012. Around 394 youth from different local churches all over the country participated in this conference.

The theme of the conference was: Making Christlike disciples in the Nation. The participants felt the presence of our living God and were encouraged, inspired and recharged for making Christlike disciples among the nations.

Objectives

The general aim and objective of this NYI Regional Conference 2012 was to develop and enhance youth leadership

skills that are necessary for Nazarene youth to function effectively and efficiently as respected, competent and contagious leaders, evangelists and “Ambassadors of Christ,” within the church and the society.

Specific Objectives

- To learn from expert communicators as they address the specific issues and challenges of leadership facing current day church leaders.
- To encourage them for the

Participants discussed the leadership principles of Jesus Christ and the role of the Holy Spirit in church growth and expansion.

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"I want what they have."

They came to *love* *Jesus*

By
Gina Pottenger



YOUR STORY
OUR STORY
GOD'S STORY



When Cristi and Monica Boseff first met the Nazarene missionaries to Bucharest, Romania, in 1992, Cristi was convinced they were American spies.

The Boseffs had gone to meet the missionaries Jon and Margaret Scott, because Monica had been asked to serve as a translator for them. The Scotts shocked the Romanian couple by welcoming them into their home with hugs, smiles and friendliness unusual in that culture between strangers.

"I said, 'Something is missing, because nobody is nice and polite with strangers, only if they need something from you,'" recalled Cristi. "When I suspected them of being American spies, I decided to catch them and I was very alert."

Those who were raised under Communism developed a mistrust of others, even friends, Monica said.

"You definitely didn't trust your neighbors, or not even some of your relatives," Monica said. "You never knew who was an informer for the security."

Despite Cristi's objections, Monica agreed to translate for the couple, and over the next two months she was exposed to something she had never seen in anyone before – the love of Jesus Christ. She was so moved by what she felt around them that one day she told her husband, "I don't care what you think, but I need my life to be changed. I really

want to have what they have."

In October 1992, she prayed with Margaret to receive Christ, beginning a long journey of transformation in the image of Jesus, and became part of the Blessings Church of the Nazarene in Bucharest which was just beginning to form at that time.

Cristi did not share her enthusiasm for her new faith, but did not discourage her. They'd gotten married after knowing one another just two weeks. When Monica became a Christian, they had only been married a few months.

"Those who were raised under Communism developed a mistrust of others, even friends." -- Monica Boseff

In training to be a nurse, Monica received a scholarship in 1993 to study in Oklahoma, in the United States. The Scotts connected her with the Calvary Church of the Nazarene in Tulsa. They helped her through a difficult adjustment to American culture. And they helped to carry Monica's burden for Cristi's salvation.

"The most powerful lesson about prayer I learned in the church," she said.

"What I learned is that a whole church that has never seen this man knelt at the altar crying out for him Sunday after Sunday. I didn't even have a picture of Cristi to show them. I would even get calls throughout the week [saying], 'I've been praying for your husband.'"

God answered the church's prayers through Cristi's job in working part-time for the Scotts and their nonprofit organization.

"I was surprised because they started every working day with prayer. They eat together, they fasted together.... And I wanted to have what they have," Cristi said.

Over time, God wrapped him up with love and mercy until he began going to church with them while Monica was out of the country. Over time, listening to the sermons and what was said at church, he gradually realized that he had come to love Jesus.

At Christmas, Monica's mom called her and told her to sit down for some news. Then, her mother's voice announced, "Cristi accepted Christ at church."

The leaders of the Blessings Church wanted Cristi to pursue theological education. It seemed they sensed a potential pastor in him. But Cristi was virulently opposed to entering studies. He had a list of excuses: he didn't speak

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BOSEFF: 'IN CHRIST YOU ARE FULL OF JOY'

well in public; he stuttered; his memory was poor; he was too old to study and didn't like it, anyway.

Then, eight years ago, Cristi was running out of excuses in face of an increasingly clear call from God. The pastor had left and Cristi needed to serve as a temporary leader. He did such a good job that the Blessings Church of the Nazarene officially asked him to be their pastor.

He came home and sat down with Monica and their two children. He asked his kids, "I need you to tell me if you think I should be the pastor of the church. If you think so... you're in this with me, because this is not my ministry, it is not something I do. If we do it, we do it together."

Their children looked up at him and told their father to "go for it."

Cristi has been the pastor ever since.

It's tough for Nazarene churches in Romania. By law a church cannot be registered officially with the government until it has 10,000 members. But it's difficult to get members without being seen as a legitimate, government-recognized organization.

So the church registered with the Christian Evangelical Organization for Aid and Development.

Compassionate ministries is a strong focus of the Blessings church, which is located in a poor community. The congregation has been steadily growing in recent years. In 2010, the church expanded the sanctuary and remodeled several rooms to accommodate the growth. They also built a tank for baptisms.

"We find that people are so open to hearing god's plain and simple truth," Monica said. "You would find 99 percent

of the Romanian population says they're believers – they believe in God and belong to religion and the church – but their life is messed up. We are still very high on abortions and extramarital relationships and sex before marriage."

Monica said that she and Cristi are not trying to bring people to the church but to a relationship with Jesus Christ. She tries to live her life in a way that demonstrates becoming a Christian and joining an evangelical church doesn't mean the end of fun or freedom in life.

"We laugh so hard together and we enjoy life so much together in a clean and nice way. They realize that in Christ you are full of life and joy and so they start to understand that belonging to a church is vital to your Christian life. And so meeting with some of my friends makes them say, 'When do you have your service?'" ▼

QUARRELSOME < BLISSFUL

The story of Sumi by NCM

In one of her letters she wrote, "I, your lovely daughter Sumi, am very happy and blissful because of God's blessings."

Sumi is a resident of a village in South Asia. Villagers become busy in their fields in summer and rainy seasons but in winter most of them go to work in brick factories. Her father is also a farmer and possesses a small piece of land to cultivate vegetables. The rest of the time, he goes to work in brick factories as a day laborer. Her mother normally takes care of the household.

Sumi is 13 years old and studies in grade seven in a public school nearby her village. She is known as a sincere student by her teachers and school friends.

But Sumi remembers differently. She said, "My parents were tired of my stubbornness. I had no friends due to my short temper. My sisters did not want to play with me because of my quarrelsome attitude."

Sumi joined the child development center (CDC) a few years ago where

teachers treat children with love and care. At first the teachers noticed that she was quite conceited, but this gradually changed as she regularly came to the center.

One day one of her teachers told a tragic story in the class about a son who neglected and left his widowed mother alone. The story touched Sumi's heart and she felt she would not take advantage of her mother's love and patience for her anymore. She decided not to trouble her parents by asking unnecessary things, whatever she desired to have.

From this period on she tried to build good personal relationships with CDC children and staff. She started to regularly attend Sunday School and weekly worship service. She often took part in the church ministries.

As she grew and became 13 years of age, she accepted Christ as her personal savior. Now she has been baptized and is assisting the Sunday school teacher in her local church. She has also shared the gospel of Christ among her family members. Her



parents have started to attend weekly corporate fellowship in the church.

"Now I am so happy because my parents do not prevent me from going to church but they are also going with me," Sumi said, "I sometimes compare myself past and present. My interest in reading books has increased. I'm always happy when I learn something from others and teach others what I have learned."

According to her local pastor, Sumi is one of the most active members and takes seriously her responsibility in the church. Sumi and her family need our prayers so that they can continuously walk with the Lord whatever situation they're in. ▼

NYI: Participants realize holiness is critical

from page I

Christlike leadership as they can serve church, community and children.

- To encourage them for attending church services and submit to the blessing and correction it can offer.
- To encourage them to submit their life to Christ and preach the gospel to nonbelieving people.

Activity Implementation

There were several sessions for the emerging youth leaders.

The session on “What Does the Bible Say About Leadership” was tremendously effective for the youth leaders. In this session, the aspects of Jesus’ leadership were discussed. Participants discussed the leadership principles of Jesus Christ and the role of the Holy Spirit in church growth and expansion. It was a very lively discussion on the Old and New Testament models of leadership and also on effective strategies for becoming successful fishers of men.

The session on Discipleship was very much fruitful for the youth leaders. Jesus called us not only to spread the gospel among the nations but also to teach the nations to observe all things.

One of the speakers delivered an excellent speech on young leader’s problems regarding ego. He compared the pride of young leaders to bad breath

that everyone can smell except the proud person. Sometimes we wear a mask because of a personality that keeps us away from the Lord Jesus. The participants realized that human beings are created in the image of God and God has a special purpose for creating us. God always gives us challenging work, which is impossible to complete without His blessings.

Participants realized that without spiritual development and holiness, leadership qualities could not be fulfilled. This conference helped the participants to understand the real meaning of Christian ministry and leadership as well as to figure out the obstacles of the spiritual life and importance of keeping regular contact with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Testimonies of the participants

“This NYI Regional Conference 2012 is a great opportunity to my life. In my journey with the Lord this really impacted me in different ways. It helps me to figure out some obstacles in my spiritual life,” said Dolly from Hogleadanga Nazarene Church. “It also helps me to make a good relationship with other leaders or believers and it recharged my spiritual life. Before participation in this conference, I had

some secret sins which I couldn’t take away from my life, but in the revival meeting, I surrendered myself before God and I prayed about my secret sins. Now, I believe that God received my prayer and forgives me. Therefore, now I am leading my life far from those sins and starting my new spiritual journey with God.”

“I never had any interest or passion to get involved in the ministry or in ministry leadership,” said Saju, Paikgacha Nazarene Church. “After attending this conference, I learnt that God has wonderful plan for each individual life and he has given different kinds of tasks to all believers to be carried out. Before attending this conference, I thought doing ministry is only the task of pastors and elders. I am now praying that God would show me what plan He has for my life and what task He wants me to accomplish.” ▼

IRELAND: Groups help to build relationships

from page I

from Wicklow.

In the fall, the Lisburn Church of the Nazarene donated 500 euros worth of toys to get the group started. The group is renting rooms in the town’s parochial hall.

The Greystones groups, which have been going since September 2011, have been a big success. They had so many people want to participate in the first one that they split the group into two, with about 15 to 20 families meeting on Thursday evenings and 20 to 30 families meeting on Friday morning. They have also hosted parenting classes, with so many people signing up that they had to offer the class twice.

“We’re going to do something on marriage enrichment, something on marriage for those couples,” Stephen said. “[It would] just provide another opportunity for us to build relationships

with these people and connections so you can continue to share Christ in their lives.”

The Morleys have spent their time in Ireland by joining community clubs and groups that would open doors for

By joining community clubs and groups, doors open for meeting needs.

meeting needs. Stephen joined the Rotary Club, which hosts a Giving Tree ceremony every Christmas. They hold an ecumenical service during which they set up a tree in the center of town so that people can place a card on it memorializing a loved one.

Last December, Stephen was chosen as the leader for the ceremony, which

also features a priest in the Catholic church and a pastor in the Church of Ireland.

Annette has joined several women’s groups, one of which is a knitting club. Stephen also joined a committee that was chosen by the county council to supervise some low income housing in an economically disadvantaged area, and he is assisting them with their website. At Christmas, he was asked to stand in for Santa Claus at the housing center’s Christmas party.

“All of these things in my mind are helping us to build credibility in the community, to develop relationships in the community where we can share Christ and to open doors for the future for whatever God wants to see happen in this place.” ▼

STORIES OF THE JESUS FILM MINISTRY FROM SOUTH ASIA

GOD LOOKS FOR EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Warm greetings in Jesus' name on behalf of our team. We are glad and happy to share the story of our ministry during a local festival.

We learned that where there is no way for us, there is a way for God. God is telling us to go where He wants to send us.

In the time of festival we were in a dilemma where we shall go because it's a festival of [the local religion] and mostly they are eager to celebrate the Dashain and the Tihar. So we were thinking to share the gospel individually in our nearest villages rather than by showing the *JESUS* film.

But the call came to us from a Christian leader named Sister Nirmala to show the *JESUS* film, so without delay we took this opportunity and went there not knowing the place and people of that village. We only knew it's the time when many people drink alcohol in the name of festival. Despite this, we took this challenge to show the film.

There were a few people gathered to watch the film, but in the midst of the showing, some drunkard came to stop film. It was for almost half an hour that we were stopped. We started to pack up the tools for the film, but then there was a disagreement among the crowd, for one group says for us to stop and the other group says we should show the film.

Finally we told them we have not come to fight or argue; if you allow us to show the film, than we will show it. Otherwise we will go.

So most of the people raised their hands to watch the film; of course there was majority, so again we started to show the film.

When the film came to the end, the drunkard came near to us, saying he wanted to be Christian and asking what he should do? We said, "Just believe Christ is God and salvation belongs to Him." This fellow said then "I like to accept Christ." We said, "You can come tomorrow in fresh mind, only then is it possible." To our



surprise he came early in the morning and again he asked, so in the name of Jesus Christ we prayed with him to accept Christ.

LIVING WATER

As most part of our country is covered by the hills it is sometimes very hard to go from one place to another. In order to complete a short journey we need to struggle with the hills, rivers, forest and various geographical features. As the vehicles are not available in this area we need to walk on foot to reach to our destination.

We pray regularly before going somewhere. God gives us energy and we walk on foot sometimes the whole day, being happy working for God. One day we were moving on and on towards our destination. The land of the village is dry. We didn't get water to drink after covering a long distance. As we sing hymns and choruses on our way we forgot all hardship.

We crossed the up-and-down bushy land and there appeared a small hut. We decided to ask for water to quench our thirst. We entered the hut.

We found a middle-aged man and a woman. We forgot our thirst seeing their problem: The wife is lying on her sick bed and the husband is sitting near her hopelessly. This poor family lives alone in this place near the forest where other people don't live. There was nobody to extend a helping hand for them.

We listened to their story. The husband said that they were living in the middle of the village before, but some 10 years ago his wife fell sick and started trembling and speaking out like a witch doctor. The villagers accused her of being a witch and decided not to allow them to stay in the village. As they could not resist the voice of the villagers, the family moved beside the forest where only the monkeys became their neighbors. They have a son but he does not stay there. He went to the city area and has not come back to their house.

We used our EvangeCube to preach the Gospel and asked them permission to pray for them. She was sitting on her bed. We sang some choruses and earnestly prayed for her. We only stood nearby and did not touch her. But after

JESUS: Baby expected to die, is healed

from page 5



Above: In many cases, JESUS Film teams must hike on foot miles over hills and mountains to reach remote villages. Left: Teams use something called an "EvangeCube" to explain the gospel.

the prayer she shared with us that she felt a touch of a caring hand and felt that her body became so light that she now felt like she wanted to jump and dance. She said that she was released from her pain.

We told her God is loving her and curing her years' long sickness. Both of them became very happy. We encouraged them that God will bring them good things in His right time and then we moved on ahead. The next day we reached our destination and organized a JESUS film show which was very fruitful.

Please pray for us that God may give us power to heal the sick and preach His Gospel authoritatively. Thank you.

RETURNING TO THE LIVING

Greetings in the name of our Lord on behalf of our team members. At first we give thanks to our heavenly father for His blessing on all JESUS film programs. We thank God for His good blessing, kindness and righteousness that we had been able to implement

our plans for organizing JESUS film shows.

In this month we went to a town that is a very good tourist spot. So many people come for visiting and picnics. When we were walking by the road we saw a crowd and we also went into that crowd.

Some women were crying. From one of them we came to know that they have a baby who was sick and doctors gave the child only two to three hours to live, and after that the baby was expected to die. From the crowd some said, "You are Christians, if you people pray then healing will come to pass." So they requested us to pray for the baby. We took this opportunity and prayed for the healing of the baby. And God worked with His people and the baby started crying as we were praying. The appointed time of expected death came and passed but the baby remained alive. According to the doctor she should have already been



dead but God healed the baby until today.

The mother of the baby was overwhelmed with happiness and nothing could stop her accepting Christ as her personal savior in the very moment. These days she attends every Church service at the local Church of the Nazarene. We thank God for the great healing proved upon that baby. God never puts us in shame but He uses us for His glory. ▼

Several UK churches renovating or building

Parkhead Church of the Nazarene

As work progresses on the new church building at Parkhead, the banner proclaims, "Parkhead Nazarene, Back in Summer 2013." With walls and roof now complete, work can proceed internally in the main sanctuary area and in the three-story block (two main floors and loft-space/storage rooms). It is hoped that the building will be completed sometime in the summer. Sunday services at Parkhead continue to be held in the John Wheatley College, and fundraising continues in order to meet the total cost of the project.

Greenisland

Built as a facility for youth and children's work, the new Greenisland church hall was opened and dedicated 3 November 2012 when approximately 130 gathered to celebrate the event. Don Bowyer (a church member and the building project manager) cut the ribbon, and the service of dedication was led by District Superintendent Rev Philip McAlister.

It was in May 2009 that the vision for a new hall started to become a reality. With just £12,500 in the bank, the foundations were laid, and over the months, thanks to sacrificial giving, much

hard work and some donated labor, the building has been erected stage by stage as the money came in - £135,000 in total. Located on ground to the side of the existing sanctuary, the new building also comprises kitchen and toilet facilities.

Local pastor, Rev John Dickson, comments, "We as a church have seen God's wonderful hand of provision in it all from start to finish...God has truly done great things for us and we trust we will see many youth and children being reached and saved for His glory in the days to come."

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Power of One

...it's here!



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*“He is the faithful
God who keeps his
covenant for a thousand
generations and lavishes
his unfailing love on
those who love him and
obey his commands.”
Deuteronomy 7:9 NLT*

Upcoming Events

- 15-16 Mar • British Isles South District Assembly
- 15-18 Mar • British Isles North District
- 23 Feb • Assembly
- 7 May • Summer Intensives begin, NTC

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UK: Seeking grants, gifts

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Sheffield Heeley

Plans for a major renovation of the Sheffield Heeley church were passed by the Sheffield City Council on 3 January. The 105-year-old building – which runs a full church and community program – is showing signs of age.

The estimated £500,000 project includes a new disabled access and emergency exit, disabled toilet and a tea bar. A new lift and staircase will be installed to connect upper and lower floors and in addition there will be new toilets, lounge area, kitchen, entranceway and small rooms.

The church has pledged an initial £100,000 and half of this has already been raised; a further £200,000 is expected from the sale of the Norfolk Park properties; and £200,000 needs to be raised through grants, donations, and from other sources. The church will need to secure temporary accommodation for some six months while the work is carried out. ▼

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Together, Spring 2013

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Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the JESUS Film teams across the Eurasia Region who face the challenges of difficult geography, public transportation, opposition to film showings, equipment failure, fatigue, hunger and discouragement. Pray that God will remove obstacles and provide all they need to share JESUS with all those who are ready to receive Him now.
- Please pray for Sumi and the hundreds of other children who are being educated in child development centers (CDC) across the Eurasia Region. Ask God to make a way for them to attend consistently, for blessings on the teachers and leaders who keep the CDCs going, and for the Holy Spirit to lead children and their families into relationship with Jesus Christ.
- 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.
- “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

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