

# where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

YEAR 10, ISSUE 7 • SEPTEMBER 2013

## Leeds church reaches out to 'Travellers'

By Matt Lee  
Eurasia Region Communications

In South Leeds, England, there lies a community of 100 people that are often misunderstood, judged and cast aside. These people are known as Travellers.

The South Leeds Church of the Nazarene last year began reaching out to a community of nearby Travellers after one of them came to the church and accepted Christ, with the result that now there is a congregation of Travellers meeting at the church on Sunday nights, representing 30 percent of the Travellers' population in South Leeds.

Travellers are an ethnic group, much like gypsies, and live in trailers and campers on caravan sites throughout the U.K. Most of the males of the community are more educated than the females.

"The majority of the females are expected to stay home, learn to be a good housewife, be married while still in their teenage years and not have proper schooling," said M.C. Lowther, a 16-year-old Traveller.

It is because of this lack of education that most women in the community cannot read or write for themselves.

In June 2012, Pastor Chris Lewis of Leeds South Church of the Nazarene was welcomed as the new senior pastor. One of the first people he met was Eileen James, a Traveller, who brought a friend named Donna Lowther and her son M.C. Lowther.

During the Sunday morning service, Donna realized she needed

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## NAZARENES HELP SYRIAN REFUGEES



Photo courtesy Pastor Zadi

By Gina Grate Pottenger  
Eurasia Region Communications

For the past year, a local Church of the Nazarene in Jordan has been reaching out to refugees who have fled the violence and unrest that began in Syria in March 2011.

In July 2012, a refugee camp formed in a community called al-Mafraq, on the Jordanian border with Syria, with many refugees living in tents and others living in crude shelters built from materials at hand. It is here where a team of three or four people from the Nazarene church are coming five days a week with food packages, blankets and mattresses in the name of Jesus Christ.

They are meeting with about 40 refugees for discipleship once a week.

### The life of a refugee

"We have at least 300 families we

visit. We have the name list for them and their phone numbers and their situation and their needs," said Pastor Fadi\*.

According to a Boston Globe story in April, which cited a United Nations report, 7,000 to 8,000 Syrians are fleeing to other nations daily, with a total of 1.3 million Syrians seeking refuge outside their borders; almost 4 million more have been displaced inside Syria.

The refugees face not only challenges in finding food, income and space for their families, they also struggle to find work, said Fadi.

"They are not allowed to work in Jordan but some of them, they work, but not legally," he said.

He recently visited one 15-year-old Syrian refugee who worked a

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“God gives me this vision.”

## Woman on a MISSION

By  
Gina Pottenger

Photo courtesy Christian Bangert

YOUR STORY  
OUR STORY  
GOD'S STORY

Magda Cini was distraught. Her 22-year-old son, his girlfriend, and Cini's daughter were in a car accident on a road in their village of Tigmandru that was notorious for fatal accidents. Her son, Nulutzu, was hospitalized with a piece of the vehicle having penetrated his forehead and he had amnesia. Cini was afraid he would die. She had already lost a niece in another car accident on the same road.

She begged God to save her son's life. In exchange, she would dedicate herself full-time to Christian ministry; she was not yet a Christian at this time, but her daughter Paula had found Christ as a teenager through the Nazarene church and been active ever since, starting a kids' club in Tigmandru.

Through the relationship with

Paula, Nazarene missionary Roberta Bustin visited the hospital and prayed over Nulutzu. Ten minutes later, he opened his eyes.

As Nulutzu recovered, Cini remembered her promise and began a prayer meeting in her village, inviting people to join her in praying that God would stop the numerous car accidents on that infamous road. Today, there are very few accidents there, which Cini attributes as a direct answer to the prayers of that group.

Since the accident in 2002, Cini's efforts – along with Paula's equally hard work – have led to a Nazarene church plant in Tigmandru that has grown into an established church with 50 to 70 active attendees. Cini is the compassionate ministries director,

the full-time pastor, and holds a local preacher's license; she is working toward her district license.

She is responsible for launching multiple, long-term community outreach ministries, ranging from greenhouses and an aquaponics project, to a sewing shop and a ministry to young mothers and their babies.

Cini drew on her various occupational experiences to organize the projects, all of which are designed to provide small jobs for the many unemployed people in the church, and to teach vocational skills so they can later get full-time work. Very few people in Tigmandru have jobs, and they struggle to feed their families.

For instance, there is a clothing factory in the nearby town of Sighisoara where Cini worked for several years. When some unemployed women in the church expressed interest in working there, Cini took them herself. But the women didn't have the skills needed and weren't hired.

So, in 2008, just after the Nazarene church moved into its own building, Cini established a sewing room at the church with donated sewing machines and materials. She teaches basic sewing skills and techniques. The women who participate sew dolls and cloth bags, and various Nazarenes help to sell the items, returning the profit to the women. Several of the women have since gotten jobs at the factory.

Cini also worked as a nurse in

Magda Cini used her background as a professional seamstress to start a sewing workshop at the Tigmandru church for women who needed work.



Photo courtesy Magda Cini

# SYRIA: Church gives food, blankets, love

from page 1

full month on the promise of receiving 50 Jordan *dinars* (less than \$100 USD). But when he finished the work, the one who hired him refused to pay him. Because he was working illegally, the Syrian man could not appeal to the authorities for help.

“He went back to his house crying at the time I was there,” Fadi said.

It was a Korean Presbyterian church which gave the Nazarene church the idea and impetus to begin the refugee ministry. The Korean church pays for the food baskets, which cost about \$30 each, and supports the work.

“Our goal is mercy ministry, so we start first by visiting to know the family, to listen from them, and that’s what really they need. They need someone to sit with them, cry with them, listen to them. In every house we pray with them.”

## Prayers answered

Most families are receptive to the Christians praying for their needs, and in some cases God has answered prayers dramatically.

The church members prayed for one 4-year-old girl who was so traumatized by the turmoil she experienced in Syria that she lived in constant fear and cried every time she heard any unexpected sound. Three days after the team prayed for her, she began to behave normally and played freely with other children. Her father called Fadi to tell him that his daughter was no longer afraid.

In another case, a baby had a heart problem. The church gave some money to help pay for the baby’s medical care, and prayed for the child. The family reported that the doctors said the baby’s heart somehow had been healed.



Many Syrian refugees live in camps set up by the U.N., in tents such as these.

## Children at risk

“Our heart and my heart personally are for the Syrian kids,” Fadi said. “They really struggle a lot here in Jordan. They are just watching the TV, how the people kill each other in their land, and that makes them also more angry and more sad.”

The UN Refugee Agency reports that more than 1 million children have left Syria and another 2 million are displaced within the country.

Every two months, the church conducts a kids’ club, with about 200 Syrian children in attendance. In the next few months they hope to open a children’s center where they will offer English and computer classes, and host crafts and other activities. The plan is

for it to be a drop-in center that is open several days a week, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Another nearby Nazarene church, which runs about 15 to 20 people in Sunday worship, now sees 60 Syrian children in their Sunday school as a result of the outreach to the kids.

NCN News reported in July that nine Nazarene churches in the Eastern Mediterranean Field are actively ministering to a total of about 3,000 families in need. ▼

*\*Name changed for security reasons.*

*Note: Read about how Nazarenes in Lebanon are helping Syrian refugees in Engage magazine: <http://engagemagazine.com/content/nazarene-church-lebanon-reaches-out-syrian-refugees>*

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## North East India District dedicates new center

By Gina Grate Pottenger  
Eurasia Region Communications

On August 24, the North East India District officially dedicated its new district center, which has been under construction for the past four years, and was completed last month.

The center will be used as the headquarters for various district

ministries, such as child development centers, health centers, South Asia Nazarene Bible College, Nazarene Missions International, as well as Nazarene Youth International, Sunday School and Discipleship International ministries, JESUS Film, and the district office. It will also be used to host pastoral leadership and vocational trainings, said District Superintendent

Kim Singson.

The new center is 60 feet by 40 feet, with two guest rooms, two staff offices, a conference hall that can double as a worship hall, and one sitting room, dining room and kitchen.

See pictures of the new district center on page 6.

See “CENTER” • page 6

# Missionaries open charity shop in Croatia



Dave (far left) and his wife Betsy (far right) are missionaries in Croatia who joined with other believers, Tomislav and Janet Tuškan (center) to open the city of Zagreb's first charity shop, *Qanah*.

By Betsy Scott  
Special to Eurasia Region  
Communications

As missionaries, we agreed to come to Croatia to see how God was moving here and to ask how we can be a part of it. We didn't want to come assuming we knew how to "help" or assuming things needed to be "fixed." We also didn't want to assume there weren't already capable, willing and talented people here to partner with and to learn from. We wanted to be learners first: learn the language and the culture, understand the people, and see what breaks the heart of God. We prayed for partners, that God would use us, that God would show us what breaks His heart, that God would provide a space to be used for ministry, that He would show us how to move forward.

And God did.

God began to show us things breaking his heart like: poverty, broken relationships, the mistreatment of a marginalized group of people known as Roma, and so many of our close friends in great financial need.

We felt the first step was to start a Croatian compassionate ministries non-profit which would help address some of those needs. So we started *Djela Ljubavi* (Acts of Love) and we hoped and prayed God would connect us to people with a similar vision.

We met Janet and Tomislav Tuškan a few months after we arrived, and knew that God orchestrated that meeting. Over the next year, we got acquainted as families and partners. We prayed together about starting a project that would meet

the needs around us.

One day, a friend found a very affordable but tiny space for us. Because it was so small, we knew it was just a start. That space became *Qanah*, our charity shop – the first project of *Djela Ljubavi*.

The name "Qanah" was suggested to us by a friend. We learned it is the Hebrew word meaning "to acquire," and also is used in the Bible as "a God who redeems us." The place "Cana," as in Cana of Galilee, comes from this word "Qanah." Cana of Galilee was the place where Jesus performed His first miracle of turning water into wine. We prayed that Qanah would be just that – a place where miracles happen.

Before opening *Qanah*, people were ready to help. The first weekend, we had volunteers from all backgrounds and churches. In the beginning, *Qanah* was open for sales only one day a week – on Saturdays – to gauge interest and assess how much help we had.

After only five months, we are now open four days a week: Wednesday to Saturday. People like coming to *Qanah*, and we have a core group of volunteers who are invested in the mission.

People love donating to us because they seem to feel good about getting rid of their things, knowing it's going toward a good cause. We've received clothes, bedding, household items, shoes, toys, jewelry, etc.

One of the most special donations came in the first month. A woman brought bags of items saying she had been waiting for a place just like *Qanah* to give them to. After the woman left, my friend told me the woman had a 6-year-old daughter with a rare form of leukemia. The family went to America for treatment but, shortly after arriving there, the daughter died of an infection.

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That day was emotional for us as we sorted through six large bags of clothes, size 6-7, many with tags still on them. But we also felt a sense of honor and gratefulness that we could be a place to which this woman felt good about donating her daughter's items.

After opening Qanah, we found out we were the first charity shop in the capital city of Zagreb. We have been fortunate to have a lot of positive press about Qanah. The first week we opened, a big radio station and a TV program called *Dobro Jutro Hrvatska* ("Good Morning Croatia") both aired stories about our charity shop. In August, two different magazines wrote articles about Qanah. As a result, many have come to donate, buy things, or just see what we're about.

We created a website -- [www.djelaljubavi.com](http://www.djelaljubavi.com) -- and one of the biggest ways we've connected with the public has been through our Facebook page (called: "Qanah Trgovina rabljenih stvari - charity shop") where we post pictures and updates and where people tell us about a person or family in need.

One of our biggest problems at Qanah is lack of storage space and storage. Because of this, we are looking for a larger place that we can use as storage and for the headquarters of *Djela Ljubavi*. With more space, we hope to do some of the other things we're dreaming of: having a church gathering, bike repair, a continued English Club, and tutoring, etc.

Choosing how to help people from the proceeds each month is a very



Photo courtesy Betsy Scott

This summer, the Qanah charity shop supported an English camp for the children of Roma families, as well as a two-week English club for other neighborhood children.

prayerful and somewhat challenging process, because there are so many in need. Part of the mission of Qanah is to help people live sustainable lives, so we don't want people to grow dependent on support from Qanah. Many we have helped are going through a really rough time, such as losing jobs, and thus being unable to pay their bills.

This summer we've also supported an English camp for Roma children (an ethnic group scattered across Europe that often live in poverty on the fringes of society), run a two-week English club for local school-aged children, and held a fundraiser for a woman who needed to visit her family in Uganda.

As Nazarene church planters, we see the need in Zagreb for a Church of the Nazarene. We also see the importance of bringing people together to do the work of the Kingdom of God, being Christ together. So, I'm thrilled that Qanah has been a part of showing the heart of the Church of the Nazarene, reflecting God's love through loving and serving others. I'm also excited that Qanah is a way to connect to others and exemplify how being united helps bring about the redemptive work of God in our communities, and in our world. ▼



# Practice 'Generosity Unlimited' this fall

The Church of the Nazarene's Thanksgiving Offering for the World Evangelism Fund has been a denominational tradition for more than 80 years.

Held annually in the fall around the world, the Thanksgiving Offering continues to raise support and awareness for missionary causes through the World Evangelism Fund (WEF). Created in 1923, the WEF provides essential resources for the denomination's churches and missional outposts in more than 159 world areas, and allows individuals and organizations to continue our shared mission "To make Christlike disciples



## Generosity UNLIMITED

WHOEVER SOWS GENEROUSLY WILL ALSO REAP GENEROUSLY

in the nations."

This year's offering theme is "Generosity Unlimited."

To promote the Thanksgiving offering in your local church, please visit:

[http://web.nazarene.org/site/PageNavigator/Thanksgiving\\_2013\\_Home](http://web.nazarene.org/site/PageNavigator/Thanksgiving_2013_Home)

and use the "Resources" tab to download promotional materials such as videos, posters, and bulletin inserts, as well as sermon ideas and prayer points.

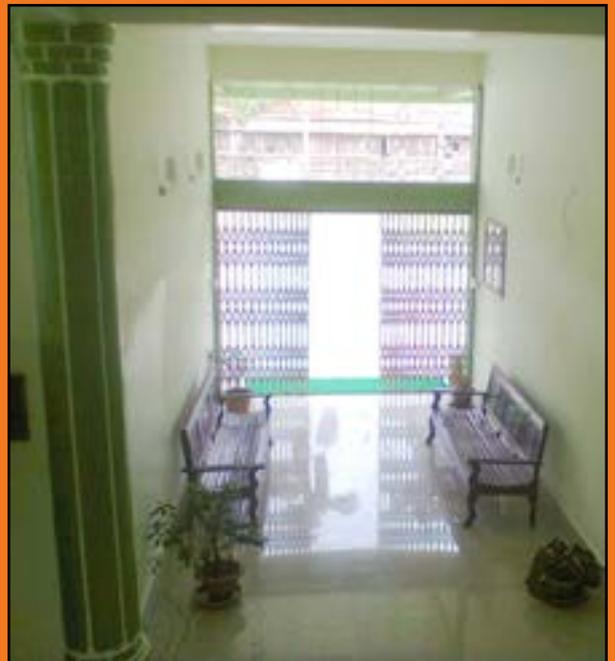
The resources are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Korean and French. ▼

## CENTER: New district center built in 4 years

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Photos courtesy Rev. Kim Singson



The North East India District Center took four years to build and will headquarter all the district ministries.



# LEEDS: At baptism, 10 accept Christ

from page 1

forgiveness and accepted Jesus into her life. After the service, while sitting in the church fellowship hall over tea and coffee, M.C. spoke to Lewis and accepted Jesus into his life.

James spoke of the need for Jesus in the Travellers community, but there was not much outreach to them and was wondering what they could do.

They began a new believers class for the converts and, since many of them didn't know how to read, they used StudyMaps to teach them the basics of Christianity. StudyMaps are visual resources developed by a Nazarene missionary that connect the ideas and stories of the Bible so it is easier for people to memorize them without having to read.

Since the Travellers tend to sleep late, they also started a Sunday evening service to reach out to them. James volunteered to start a bus ministry to transport those Travellers that were interested in going to church.

Donna's excitement for her newfound faith began to spread throughout her family and the community, which led to her sister, Becky James, accepting Jesus, as well as other friends and family.

On October 7, 2012, Donna and

her son, as well as her 18-year-old niece, Jamie Lee and two other Travellers were baptized.

"Ten more people made professions of faith in Christ on the night of the baptism as well, and nine of those were Travellers."

On June 2, 2013, James was baptized along with four others, including a couple of young people who had come to Christ at Donna, M.C. and Jamie Lee's baptism.

Their hunger for God and His word grew, which led to the starting of a Bible study on the caravan location.

"It was an amazing happening of events," said Lewis. "The G.A.T.E. Organization (a Gypsies and Travellers advocacy group) allowed us to use their onsite office building to not only teach the Travellers how to read and write but to hold a weekly Bible study as well."

One night at the Bible study, Lee asked for prayer for her uncle, Johnny. He has cancer and she wanted prayer for healing and for salvation. Ten minutes later Johnny knocked at the door and came into the Bible study, sat



down, and asked Christ to come into his life.

"It's that childlike faith that gets me excited," said Lewis. "They believe God will answer their prayers."

Through this ministry Donna and several other women are now able to read the Bible and write. The church people have accepted the Travellers with open arms and continue to love them like Jesus does and, because of this love, 30 percent of the Travellers onsite attend their Sunday night services.

"Sunday night is our biggest service of the week and now we have Travellers and 'regulars' working and worshipping side by side," said Lewis. ▼

## Videos educate churches about WEF

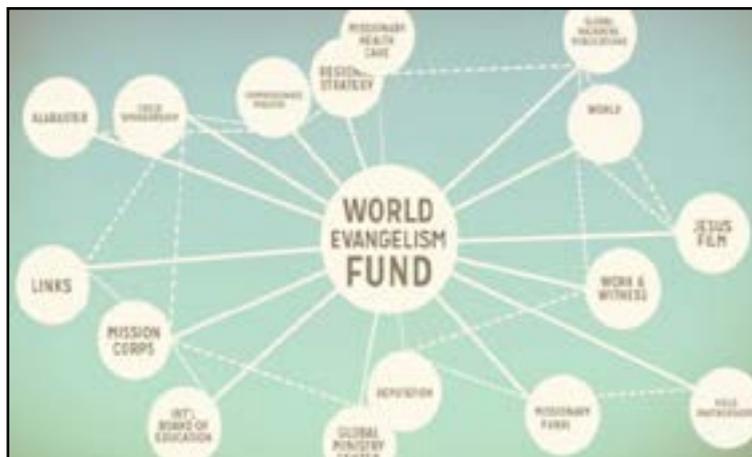
Recently Nazarene Missions International (NMI) launched a 12-part video series focused on the World Evangelism Fund (WEF).

The first WEF video in the series focused on tithing rather than squarely on the WEF. Why? Because without tithers, no local church will be able to sustain ministry or offer further giving opportunities for God's mission locally or globally. Every pastor values persons who tithe and give beyond tithe for missions.

The first video in the series is available at:

<http://medialibrary.nazarene.org/media/just-10>.

Now, NMI has completed video #2 in the series. "Give Your Heart" shows how the Church of the Nazarene in Bangladesh gave freely to help others in need. Giving ourselves is at the heart



of God's mission to the world. By giving to the World Evangelism Fund, we help complete the mission of God around the world.

Please download this video from the Nazarene Media Library:

<http://medialibrary.nazarene.org/media/wef-give-your-heart>.

Please visit <http://medialibrary.nazarene.org> in the coming months and use the search term "WEF Promo" to find links to other videos in the series and encourage your people to participate in the World Evangelism Fund, a valuable mission tool.

# Pray and share requests with 'PML'

The Church of the Nazarene has several places where Nazarenes from any nation can share ministry- or health-related prayer requests so that our global church family can unite in prayer for each other.

## 1. Prayer Mobilization Line (PML)

**e-mail:** This weekly e-mail goes out to subscribers on Wednesdays, with requests from all six world regions. It is also available in Spanish.

To subscribe, visit <http://nazarene.org/subscriber.html> and submit your email address, then check the box next to "Prayer

Mobilization Line EN" for English or "Línea de Movilización de Oración -MNI" for Spanish.

You can print out the email and bring it to a church prayer meeting, Sunday school class or other small group setting.

To submit a request to be included on PML, send it to Gina Pottenger in Eurasia Communications, at [gpottenger@nazarene.org](mailto:gpottenger@nazarene.org), or to [nmi@nazarene.org](mailto:nmi@nazarene.org).

**2. You can read or submit requests to the PML Facebook page.**

Visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/NMIPrayer> and click "like" to begin seeing current prayer requests and praises appear in your Facebook newsfeed. You can also submit requests and praises to the page by typing your request in the blank space under "Post" on the PML Facebook page.

Prayer Mobilization Line is assembled and distributed by Nazarene Missions International. Learn more at: <http://nmi.nazarene.org/10026/story.html>

# Power of One

...it's here!



[www.missionaleurasia.com](http://www.missionaleurasia.com)

*"I am the Lord your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go."  
Isaiah 48:17 (NIV)*

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## CINI: Dreams of a bakery

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a hospital for several years, specializing in massage for babies. So she started another program in the church for the many teenage girls with babies.

"I have 30 babies and 20 mothers, and I help the mothers learn how to care for their children. One day in a week I bathe the children, I change the clothes, and I make massage for the children," Cini said. The massage helps improve the babies' strength and circulation, because many are malnourished and don't receive all the vitamins and minerals they need, she said.

The greenhouse was Cini's idea, too. It serves a dual purpose: to offer a little work for several women in the church, as well as to supply fresh produce from which the church can feed 100 village children at the kids' club weekly.

"A lot of these children are hungry," said Bustin. "Sometimes they eat several bowls of soup and many pieces of bread; it's obvious they're hungry."

Cini's next big dream is for the church to open a bakery. The village doesn't have one, and there's not a bakery nearby. The space is available, all they lack is the equipment to get it started, she said. Cini gained experience coordinating a bakery run by an organization in another town.

"I'm very happy and glad because God used me in many things," Cini said. "This is God. God gives me this vision for people, because I was a very poor woman. I really want to help the people because I trust in God. And all the time, my prayer I share with God and God gives me answers for everything."

## Prayer Requests

- Please pray for peace in Syria, as well as for God's hand of protection and blessing on the thousands of Syrians who have become refugees inside and outside their home country. Ask God to equip and resource Nazarenes who are reaching out to the refugees in their midst.
- Please pray for God to make known the person He has chosen to be the next regional director for the Eurasia Region. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak clearly to those who are leading the process of searching for the person to fill this role.
- Pray for God to lead and bless the outreach efforts led by missionaries Dave and Betsy Scott in Croatia. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring people to the Qanah charity shop who need to hear a word from the Lord, and to build partnerships and connections with other believers seeking to participate in God's mission in Croatia.
- Pray for God to bless and expand the social work led by Magda Cini and the Tigmandru Church of the Nazarene. Ask God to bring many people to relationship with Christ through these vocational trainings and jobs.
- "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](mailto:whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org) or visit [www.eurasiaregion.org](http://www.eurasiaregion.org).*

*We welcome stories, photos and prayer requests. E-mail submissions to [whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org](mailto:whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org)*

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