

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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NTC graduates students from 13 nations

By Graham Meiklejohn
Special to Eurasia Region Communications

Manchester, United Kingdom -- In the life of Nazarene Theological College (NTC), graduation is an annual high point enjoyed by the whole community. At the end of October, the results of many hours of studying and researching reached their culmination as students donned their caps and gowns, receiving their hoods and degrees. The grandeur of the venue, the University of Manchester's Whitworth Hall, matched the significance of the ceremony in the life of the graduands. Graduation weekend at NTC celebrates the whole college community, in recognition of the many people who contribute to a student's study and life at NTC.

Around 40 students, representing 13 different countries, graduated from NTC this year with a range of degrees and specialisms. Particularly noteworthy were the six students who graduated with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), representing the vibrant research community at NTC. Commendation was given by Dr. Jacqueline Suthren Hirst, speaking on behalf of the University of Manchester. She noted that since the relationship began with the University of Manchester, "almost 650 students from the college have graduated with awards from this university. We are encouraged to see links between the college and the university continuing to develop."

This year NTC was privileged to have General Linda Bond, the

see "NTC" • page 3

Child development workers train for holistic ministry



In September, more than 40 child development practitioners from 11 countries in Eurasia joined their counterparts from around the world to meet at a child development conference in Singapore. Photo courtesy Trino Jara.

By Sunita Meshramkar
Special to Eurasia Region Communications

Singapore -- In September, more than 40 child development practitioners from 11 countries in Eurasia joined 40 of their counterparts from around the world to meet at a child development conference in Singapore. Child development is a focus of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) around the world.

Representatives came from Ukraine, Russia, Hungary, Albania, Romania, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Lebanon and Jordan. The conference was organized by child development volunteers from South Asia, India and the Philippines. Originally it was intended only for workers in South Asia and India, in the Eurasia Region, but

planners decided to open it up to child development workers from the other five Nazarene regions, as well.

The main objective of the conference was to enhance the coordinators' skills in working with children and their families, and for these coordinators to train others in their countries. Participants held workshops and shared with each

other what they have learned about ministering holistically to children and their families in their distinct cultural

**Child development has
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~ Sunita Meshramkar**

contexts.

Child development has been a critical ministry of the Nazarene church. Around the world, and across the Eurasia Region, the denomination has been instrumental in reaching out to children, especially those who are less-privileged, vulnerable and lost.

As a child development worker

see "CHILD" • page 4

A LIGHT IN ISRAEL

By
Gina Pottenger
Eurasia Region
Communications



Many people outside of Israel may not know that Arabs and Jews live side by side throughout the Near Eastern country, and that a small number of those Arabs have been Christian in culture and birth for centuries.

Rev. Butros and Mrs. Remona Grayeb are two of those Arab Christians, with a heart to reach other Arabs in the Holy Land with Jesus Christ through pastoral ministry and an evangelical school for children.

Slow and steady

Remona Grayeb grew up in a Christian family, but faith wasn't personal for her until her sister invited her to a Nazarene youth camp. It was at church where she met Butros, now her husband. They became engaged and were the first Arab Nazarenes to be married in the Eastern Mediterranean Field. Lindell Browning, field strategy coordinator, performed the wedding.

They began their ministry by pastoring a Nazarene church in Jerusalem from 1984 to 1990. When they took the church, there was just one local member, and the rest who came on any given Sunday were tourists or visitors.

"We worked hard visiting and

outreaching," Butros said. "The church grew. When we moved, we had around 60 members."

In 1990, Browning asked them to move to Haifa to pastor the Nazarene church there. Haifa is a city of about 400,000 people, among whom about 50,000 are Arabs. Some are Christians, but most are members of another religion.

The Haifa Nazarene Church is made up of Arab Christians and services are conducted in Arabic. The Grayebs began with just a handful of members. Over the

"The mother [was] completely Communist. She [started] talking to me about Stalin, Marx. The Lord opened my mouth how to deal with this lady and before I left, she was on her knees with her daughter, accepting the Lord."
~ Butros Grayeb

years, the church grew, mostly with young people.

"We used to have 45-50 young people, but the *Intifada* came and it destroyed a lot from this ministry," she said. "They moved away or they were afraid." (The *Intifada* was a period of Israeli-Palestinian violence from 2000 to 2005.)

Healing prayer

The Grayebs enjoy praying with sick

people in the hospital, which seems to be a gift they have. One time they prayed for a sick man who was a believer in Jesus Christ. While Butros was at the hospital, another family noticed his prayers and asked if he would come and pray for a man who was in a coma. The man and his family were members of another religion.

Butros prayed over the man and then left. The next time he came to the hospital, someone recognized him and asked, "Do you want to see the man you prayed for?" The man who had been in a coma wasn't in bed – he was fully clothed

and walking around, healthy. Butros believes this act of God was a witness to this family who did not believe in Jesus Christ.

The church offers a free packet to those who are interested. The packet

contains a Bible, a video and some other literature about the Christian faith. One woman and her daughter had contacted them asking for the packet, so the couple visited the women.

"The mother [was] completely Communist," Butros said. "She [started] talking to me about Stalin, Marx. The Lord opened my mouth how to deal with this lady and before I left, she was on her knees with her daughter, accepting the

ISRAEL: Dream to expand preschool

from page 2

Lord.”

It is a steep uphill climb to bring people into a relationship with Jesus

“I am praying for that vision, to see a Nazarene school from grade 1 to 12 in Haifa. Through the students you can make a good outreach.”

~ Butros Grayeb

Christ. Many Arabs who grew up in Christian homes think it's good enough to be born in a Christian family, and aren't interested in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, he said. Others are attracted to the Jehovah's Witness sect.

The church also tries to share food and clothes with the many poor people who live in the surrounding area. Sometimes resources fall short, however.

“Sometimes we need some help for this issue,” he said. “We are praying and thinking how to give food and gifts for

families on Christmas. There are around 30 Christian families need help on Christmas, and this will be like an open door to get to these families.”

Back to school

In 1991, they opened a Christian preschool at the church as a means for building neighborhood contacts, serving the community and to financially support themselves and the church.

While the church has struggled to attract new and young people, the preschool has thrived, with currently about 40 students – from Jewish, Muslim and Christian families.

Butros leads the school with Remona, and there are three other staff members. He dreams of expanding the school.

“I am praying for that vision, to see a Nazarene school from grade 1 to 12 in Haifa, because Haifa has a lack of private schools, and sometimes people don't know where to put their children in school,” he said. “Through the students you can make a good outreach.”

Remona is praying that God would inspire a

movement in the Nazarene church in the Holy Land, to plant more churches, raise up more pastors and to send much needed support.

The couple has four children: Fadi, 17; Raneen, 22; Nardeen, 24; and Rasha, 27. Nardeen leads songs during worship in the church while Raneen plays the keyboard; Fadi plays the violin and operates the sound system. Rasha, who lives in Nazareth, is married to an elder in the church there. Raneen is engaged to a Christian man and they are planning to get married next year.

“Praise the Lord for my family,” said Butros. ♦



In 1991 the Grayeb's opened a Christian preschool at the church as a means for building neighborhood contacts and serving the community. About 40 students attend. Photo courtesy Butros Grayeb.

NTC: Salvation Army general spoke

from page 1

worldwide leader of the Salvation Army, as the guest speaker. The involvement of General Bond is an expression of the valued links that NTC has with the Salvation Army. It was particularly fitting that John Read, a serving Salvation Army officer, graduated from NTC's PhD programme with research on “Catherine Booth: The Formulation of a Salvationist Spirituality”.

With each graduating year, NTC continues to look to serve the worldwide Church of the Nazarene in the preparation of pastors and leaders, both for the church and in its educational institutions.

NTC is a partner institute of the University of Manchester, offering theological education from certificate level through to postgraduate research degrees. Visit www.nazarene.ac.uk. ♦



Forty students, representing 13 different countries, graduated from Nazarene Theological College this year with a range of degrees and specialisms. Photo courtesy NTC Manchester.

CHILD: Moving to transformation

from page 1

in India, I was amazed to see the development made by Nazarenes as a denomination globally, and more so in South Asia. It was inspiring to witness how we have moved forward in enabling our local churches to follow the path toward change and transformation from the child, to the family, to the community and church at large.

We learned that there are different types of ministry in child development, varying from country to country, as well as region to region. Some of them are still in the compassionate yet charity/welfare stage, while the others are slowly moving towards the welfare/development stage.

In South Asia, especially countries such as Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, as well as in India, child development is structured and tied to the church because of our denomination's close association with Compassion International and other organizations that share the same ethos. In these countries the development stage is fairly evident. However, the need to move towards "transformation" is much needed. This will only sustain the efforts made, and thus the need to sustain our child development programs and projects is an important subject of learning.

Almost all the representatives of countries and regions did share the best of their practices and approaches. This platform of being able to see, understand and exchange has strengthened my learning. Most of the participants have in fact already started exchanging notes with one another for better learning.

Forming a team that will facilitate training and equipping all NCM child development coordinators in different parts of the world will surely hasten the process of growth. How to and why to do things in a particular way can be learned



Nazarene Compassionate Ministries began Nazarene child sponsorship in 1983 by supporting pastors' children's education. In the next decade, NCM launched the Child Development Center model. *Photo courtesy Trino Jara.*

from the pool of experiences we already have richly available inside the church itself.

Leaders emphasized the Child Protection Policy and the need for us to implement it in every country. This drives home that child ministry needs to be taken seriously with a sense of accountability to one another. There was also training in how to run a child development center in a sustainable way.

The conference introduced us to the new Sprout concept, which will allow all global child development ministries to access data about sponsored children as it happens now. Also, we will be able to track many other elements about the holistic development of each sponsored child, or children, from other ministries that churches may be conducting. This development seems challenging and exciting.

The SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis was a good exercise and tool that helped me re-examine myself and ministry work.

I do trust that alongside the church we certainly will see child development soar to greater heights.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries began Nazarene child sponsorship in 1983, supporting pastors' children's education. Over the years, NCM Child Sponsorship grew into holistic ministry for children and their families. NCM has 11,000 children in its sponsorship program, and feeds 50,000 children through nutrition programs. There are 123 child development centers globally.

Learn more at www.ncm.org. ♦

-- Sunita Mesbramkar is Nazarene Compassionate Ministries child development coordinator for India.

'Family of children' transformed through Albania church

By Steve Beiler

The Church of the Nazarene in Albania is intentionally reaching out to entire families through child-centered compassionate ministries.

In January, the Kombinat Church of the Nazarene was brought into contact with a family of eight. The family of eight included a mother, Mirsada, only 22 years old, with three children the ages of 5, 2, and 6 months. The rest of the family

were Mirsada's siblings: three sisters, Suela, 20; Emine, 16; and Shkurta, 14; and one brother, Ndrec, 9. The father of the older siblings left many years ago, and the mother was hit and killed by a car in the summer of 2011.

Ndrec was the church's first contact with the family, as someone from the church spotted him walking the street alone, with oversized pants and shoes (two different shoes on), and dirty. A

church member brought the boy to the church where he was washed up, given clothes. A few days later, this church member walked with Ndrec to his home, which was part of an old communist factory that was mostly destroyed in 1997.

When the church realized Ndrec's family's need, immediately, the church surrounded "this family of children" in love. Firewood was provided for them for the rest of winter, church members

see "ALBANIA" • page 5

ALBANIA: Church members offer homes

from page 4

began to take them food, and they were surrounded by love. The young family responded positively by acquainting themselves with the local church.

Ndrec had already gotten involved with life on the street; a group of men (possibly mafia) were using him to steal goods for them. He even stole from his own home, which had practically nothing to begin with. The church began to look for a children's home for him, but due to systemic bureaucracy, it was not possible.

During this time, Suela suddenly left, returning months later, pregnant. We

discovered she had found a way out of the country and had been making a living on the streets. A few months ago, a similar thing happened to Shkurta. She was suddenly married off and now is living outside of the country. We are concerned that she may have been a victim of trafficking, and we somehow missed it! This breaks our heart!

The church has been working with this family on their legal documents, and is partnering with the local government to get them registered for services in the area. This will enable them to receive some government assistance. Elena, Mirsada's 5-year-old daughter, had also received registration in the local school system with the help of the church but, due to other circumstances, is not currently attending.

Today, Ndrec is in a children's home and doing well. Mirsada and her three children, and Emine and Ndrec, are all an active part of the church.

Just this month, Mirsada was able to find a job. And a young lady associated with the church is opening a room in her home with her parents for this family to live. They will be moving into that home soon, and the church will be helping to support them with \$50 a month for this arrangement.

Recently, when the 2-year-old, Samuel, was sick in the hospital with his mother, the rest of the family had the chance to

stay with us in our home for a week. The local church surrounded them with love and prayer and continuing help with the needed medication.

When Samuel was well enough to return to church, he noticed a picture of praying hands on the door. He went up,



The family moved from their old home. (above) They will soon be moving into a new home with a church family. Photos courtesy Steve Beiler.



The Kombinat Church of the Nazarene in Albania has been working closely with a family of eight and bringing them food and firewood. As a result, the family started getting acquainted with the church.

pointed to the praying hands, and said, "lutet" (Albanian meaning, "praying"). At 2 years old, he is already being trained in the importance and power of prayer.

Members of the church have been helping Emine in visits to a local dentist for several gum infections in her mouth, and she is feeling better.

In working together with the government, the local community, and the members of the church, this family's situation is transformed compared to 10 months ago. Praise the Lord! ♦

Register now for conventions in 2013



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
& CONVENTIONS

Indianapolis, Indiana -- The next General Assembly and Global Conventions for the Church of the Nazarene will be held in June 2013. These events take place once every quadrennium, or four years.

This time the General Assembly will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, and the Global Conventions will take place in 11 locations around the globe at the same time.

The NMI and NYI Global Conventions will conduct business via interactive video conference with all sites at the same time. The SDMI Convention will offer workshops locally.

Delegates and visitors from Eurasia

will have the opportunity to participate in the conventions in Razgrad, Bulgaria; Hyderabad, India; and Indianapolis, USA. Other cities expecting to host the conventions include Manila, Philippines; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Quito, Ecuador, to name a few.

The General Assembly will take place 22-27 June 2013. The Conventions will take place 19-21 June 2013. Visitors may attend at any of the locations. All visitors and delegates must register to attend through their respective district office.

More information can be found at www.nazarene.org/ga ♦



The 2013 General Assembly will take place 22-27 June, in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Photo courtesy www.nazarene.org.

Bangladesh Nazarenes give to Hurricane Sandy victims

In November, Nazarene staff members in Bangladesh gave an offering of \$1,424 USD – an equivalent of one day's salary for each person – to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries International for clean-up and relief efforts related to Hurricane Sandy, which ravaged seven countries in the Caribbean, including the East Coast of the United States.

On November 11, several Bangladesh churches added offerings of \$766 USD to help their brothers and sisters in the West, according to Rev. Nathan, a district superintendent.

"Although we are poor country, but we have a heart for them, we want to show our love to them," said Mrs. Mina, a Bangladeshi Nazarene. "As we follow

Christ, we are bound to do that.... He can use this small gift in a bigger way."

"It's a great privilege for us," said Mr. Karim. "Although we don't have enough... We want to share something with them so that they can feel that they are precious to us because we are Body of Christ. I feel proud that I got the opportunity through Nazarene Church." ♦

Register now for the EuNC Leadership Conference 2013

Gelnhausen, Germany -- The annual EuNC Leadership Conference will be held January 28 to 30 at the Gelnhausen Church of the Nazarene. The event will be hosted by the Germany Learning Centre. The theme will be "Making a Difference."

The devotional speaker for the

morning devotions and evening services will be Dr. Daniel Boone, president of Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S. He will address current issues in Western societies from a Christian viewpoint. The seminar speaker is Dr. Johannes Reimer, professor of mission studies at the University of

South Africa and lecturer in missiology at the Theological Seminary of the Free Evangelical Church in Ewersbach, Germany.

For more information and the online registration form, please visit the website at <http://www.eunc.edu/lc-2013/>. ♦

Power of One ...it's here!



*"And the peace of God,
which transcends all
understanding, will guard
your hearts and your
minds in Christ Jesus."
~ Philippians 4:7 (NIV)*

Upcoming Events

- 14-17 Jan • World conference for JFHP regional coordinators, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 23 Jan • Ordination assembly, Nepal
- 26 Jan • Ordination assembly, Bangladesh- South
- 28 Jan • Ordination assembly, Bangladesh-Northwest
- 29 Jan • Ordination assembly, Bangladesh-North
- 1-11 Feb • JFHP team will dedicate new ministry center in Kathmandu, Nepal
- 23 Feb • Ordination assembly, Sri Lanka

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Due to the holidays in December, there will be no *Where Worlds Meet* newsletter in January 2013. We will resume in February.

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Prayer Requests

- Pray for the child development practitioners from the Eurasia community as they work toward transformation of children and their families, and better train others in their countries.
- Pray for Rev. Butros Grayeb and his wife, Remona, as they reach out to Arabs in the Holy Land through pastoral ministry and a preschool. Pray God will provide support to their Christmas giving.
- Pray for the Kombinat Church of the Nazarene in Albania as they reach out to local families by sharing Christ's love through the giving of food and shelter.
- Pray for persecuted Nazarenes across the region: that they will have the Holy Spirit's endurance, strength, abundant joy, courage and forgiveness.
- 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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