

# where WORLDS meet



the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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## Albanian Nazarenes collaborate with other churches

By Gina Grate Pottenger  
Eurasia Region Communications

*Tirana, Albania* — As the Tirana city square filled with spectators, 12 youth stepped into their midst to perform a lively musical routine. Afterward, 50 volunteers from a number of evangelical churches in the area dispersed through the crowd to distribute books, answer questions about Jesus and pass out free T-shirts designed to spark conversations about Jesus Christ.

The June 13 musical performance, conducted by 12 youth from the Kombinat Church of the Nazarene, was a confidence-building outreach event that made it easier for the young people to share their faith in a culture where it can be difficult to talk about Christ, said Ergest Biti, a youth leader in the church.

The concert was part of the Albanian Evangelical Alliance's three-month cross-denominational "Season of Service," leading up to a big evangelistic event called TiranaFest later this month.

Biti, along with Pastor Ermal Gjermeni of the Gorrea Church of the Nazarene, in Lushnje, had the idea for the evangelistic musical performance, but they knew the Nazarene church couldn't pull it off alone.

"Our church is not big, we don't have many helpers," Biti said.

At the Nazarene church's invitation, missionaries serving with the non-denominational

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## NYC INDIA Day of Freedom



The Eurasia Region Nazarene Youth Conference 2012 was held in Chennai, India, from 31 July to 5 August. The theme of the event was to find out what it means to be Christ-like in such a mix of cultures and perspectives. Photo courtesy Laine Burdick.

By Dolphy Biswas  
India Field Communications

**“You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them.”**  
*Psalms 82:3-4, The Message.*

Reading these words may spur believers to want to do something extraordinary for the communities they live in and experience everyday. Modern day forms of slavery, such as child labor, human trafficking and caste systems, have condemned many; and many Nazarene young people want to know the causes so they can be change agents in their communities.

With this in mind, the Eurasia Regional NYI (Nazarene Youth International) Council made a decision in October 2011 to introduce these topics

to the young people and give them an avenue for change. This discussion continued through the end of the year between the Eurasia Regional NYI Coordinator Sabine Wielk and Eurasia Regional Child Development Coordinator Trino Jara.

The discussions continued through the region and with several Nazarene Compassionate Ministry (NCM) child development country coordinators, culminating on 2 August at Chennai, India, as the "Day of Freedom" during the Eurasia Region Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC).

"The purpose of this event was to lead the young people participating in the Eurasia Regional [NYC] to know and develop a deep reflection about some of the modern methods of exploitation and slavery human beings suffer, mainly because [of] castes and racial discrimination through the entire world

see "FREEDOM" • page 5

*'God never left us alone,'*

# A GOD WHO PROVIDES

By  
Gina Grate Pottenger  
Eurasia Region  
Communications



YOUR STORY  
OUR STORY  
GOD'S STORY

*Chikbli, India* – Laxmibai Mungshiram Sathe was married at the age of 5. At age 15, she had born her first child – a daughter.

Her husband began beating Sathe when it became clear she could not bear him a son, as well.

Eventually, he brought another woman into the house as his second wife. And then he cast out Sathe and their daughter.

Homeless and alone, the woman and girl turned to Jesus Christ as their only hope, and experienced firsthand that He is faithful to those who love Him.

## **'Why are you spreading lies?'**

Sathe had first heard about Jesus through her sister, who had married a Christian man and accepted Christ herself. She gave Sathe a book to read called, "Jesus Calls You." After reading it, Sathe believed in Jesus. However, she thought of Jesus as just one of many gods to worship, and she continued to worship idols and talk about the other gods with her friends and neighbors.

One night, in a dream, she heard the voice of Jesus say to her, "Why are you spreading this idol worship when I am the Living God?"

The next morning, she mentioned the dream to her husband, whom she was still living with at the time. Although he

did not believe in Jesus, he replied, "Well, then, why are you spreading lies? You should only talk about Jesus."

Sathe removed all the idols from the house and devoted all her prayers to Jesus Christ alone. She began attending the Church of the Nazarene in Pusad, where they lived.

It was then that her husband brought home a second wife and threw out Sathe and their daughter, Kunda.

Destitute, she took Kunda to her parents' home, but soon she was forced out again to live on the streets. The

***"But in all these case, God never let us alone. He was the one who provided everything to us, even though my husband did not provide ...."***

***~ Laxmibai Mungshiram Sathe***

mother and daughter patched together a shelter with branches and leaves, covering it with their own clothes. Then Sathe gathered loose sticks, wove them together to make brooms and sold them for a little bit of money. She also took any odd jobs she could find.

Although they were now 45 kilometers (28 miles) away from the Nazarene church, they never missed a Sunday,

paying 55 bisa to ride the train each way. Every year she would also fast for 40 days, and pray to God daily.

"God never left us alone," she said.

## **A God who provides**

Sathe took her husband to court for marrying a second wife. Initially, the judge ruled in Sathe's favor, ordering the man to give her 250 rupees (about \$4.50 USD) per month.

Her husband found a lawyer to argue that Sathe was not his wife, and Kunda was not his daughter. The lawyer managed to "prove" this to the court. Sathe was so distraught that she fainted.

"Then the judge asked me whether you have a marriage invitation card," she recalled. "I said, 'Yes, I have the card.' I asked my daughter to go and get the card. She brought that card to me and I gave it to the judge, and he was agreed that I was [my husband's] wife."

The order of spousal support was upheld. Several years later, the court increased that to 500 rupees per month, and today her husband is required to pay her 1,000 rupees a month.

However, five years ago he retired, so his payments to Sathe are not regular.

"But in all these case, God never let us alone," she said. "He was the one who



# PROVISION: Tithing, no matter what

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provided everything to us, even though my husband did not provide the 1,000 rupees very regularly.”

Early on, Sathe developed the practice of giving back a tithe of everything she had to God. She believes this is why, even on her meager income, she was able to send Kunda to school, and then four years of Bible college. It is why they also never wanted for anything they truly needed.

After her father died, the land he owned was to be divided among Sathe and her siblings. All her brothers and sisters sold their portion of the land to a developer. She said that one of her brothers tried to insist that Sathe’s parcel was actually his, and that he intended to sell it and keep the money for himself. In the end, Sathe prevailed and the land passed to her.

She and her daughter set up a temporary shelter on their section of land and lived there alone for two years, while the new owner of the surrounding property began developing big houses and buildings.

“In that situation we were not harmed by snakes or any poisonous thing, for the Lord will protect us,” she said.

## Coming home

The landowner was frustrated with Sathe because she would not sell her section of land to him, which was right in the middle of the other sections he’d bought. This prevented him from fully developing the surrounding property.

He often came to harass the woman and coerce her into selling, but she held out.

After two years, the value of her section had risen so high that she was finally ready to sell, and she came into the most money she had ever seen. It would have purchased the two women a fine, new house. But they wanted to give 10 percent to God first.

After giving the tithe to their church, they no longer had enough money to buy themselves the long-awaited home. But Sathe trusted God to provide, just as He always had before.

When the waiting became too long and painful, she finally cried out to Him: “I gave you so much! You don’t give me back anything!”

After this, news spread to District Superintendent Rajiv Yangad about how the destitute women had given such a large tithe to the church, and as a result, still had no permanent home. He invited them to move to Chikhli, near the Chikhli Nazarene Church and the Central Maharashtra District Center. He promised that the leadership would help them purchase a good house there.

From their new spacious, two-story home, they can see the Nazarene church across a vacant dirt lot. They are also developing the second floor so they can rent it out to tenants for a regular income.

“The house that Laxmibai got for the price she paid is a miracle,” said Yangad. “I believe she got this house in such a

good price because it is God’s grace on her life for her faithfulness with the Lord.”

Every year on January 1, Sathe celebrates her birthday by buying something useful for the local church. One year it was floor mats; another year it was four ceiling fans. In 2010, she donated 60,000 rupees (about \$1,100 USD) to give pastors a Christmas gift of the Marathi-language Thompson Chain Reference Bible – a gift of a lifetime for any minister who speaks Marathi, he added.

She also serves as an inspiration to other women.

**Early on, Sathe developed the practice of giving back a tithe of everything she had to God...It is why they also never wanted for anything they truly needed.**

“She doesn’t remain silent; she would catch women and share Christ with them in whatever way she can.”

## ‘A Lord who suffers for us’

Despite all her suffering and hardships, Sathe said, “The pains which we have in our life are not more than which the Lord Jesus have gone through, and He’s a Lord who suffers for us, and He never leaves us alone.”

She quotes Psalm 100 (NIV) as best stating her feelings toward God:

*1 Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

*2 Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.*

*3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.*

*4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*5 For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.* ♦



Laxmibai Mungshiram Sathe (left) was married at the age of 5 and had her first child, Kunda (right) at 15. Sathe has three grandchildren. Photo by Gina Grate Pottenger.

# TRAINING TRAINERS

## Preparing second phase Power of One launch

By Gina Grate Pottenger  
Eurasia Region Communications

*Büdingen, Germany* – The Power of One, Eurasia’s missional church initiative, continues to unfold in the Eurasia Region. In preparation for the release of the second phase in all fields of the region, leaders and trainers met in Büdingen for a “Training the Trainers Conference” on 22-24 August. Twenty-four Nazarene leaders gathered to learn more about discipleship, church planting and evangelism, particularly about how to train others in these areas.

Participants were chosen by their field strategy coordinators for their church planting and evangelism experience, as well as their potential ability to train others.

The participants were sent home with plans to replicate the training event on their field, with the objective to train 40 districts and 3,000 pastors who will be expected to mobilize every church on the region in its missional initiative.

“The task is so important, we need to be more intentional in discipleship and church planting, and so an intentional

**“Each and every Christian has the responsibility of church planting or witness Christ to others.”**

**~ Trisha Das**

training event hits us right where we need,” said Jay Sunberg, field strategy coordinator for Central Europe Field.

Dr. Stan Toler, general superintendent, co-led the event, teaching on principles and models of evangelism and discipleship. He used the materials and concepts on “Church Multiplication through the Power of One” that he has successfully shared to thousands of



To prepare for the release of the second phase of Power of One, 24 Nazarene leaders and trainers met in Büdingen, Germany, for a “Training the Trainers Conference” on 22 to 24 August. They gathered to learn more about discipleship, church planting and evangelism. *Photo courtesy Gina Grate Pottenger.*

leaders in the United States, Africa and South America.

Dr. Gustavo Crocker, regional director and co-leader of the event, provided training on principles and models of church planting. He also trained the participants in principles and practices of “Training trainers for missional effectiveness.”

“Although the Power of One has been effective in inspiring and equipping pastors and leaders in Eurasia to mobilize their congregations, leaders of the region decided to increase its effectiveness by training key leaders in helping districts and local churches maximize the resources included in the first phase of the initiative,” said Crocker, as he introduced the event to the participants. “When we give successful church planters and evangelists additional tools to train others, we equip them to join a true multiplication movement in their respective fields.”

The Eurasia Region’s Power of One missional church initiative first launched in October 2010 as an integrated initiative that equips local churches to be missionally engaged through discipleship, evangelism, church planting and compassionate ministry. Nazarenes have

taken up the vision to help their local churches and lay people recognize God’s call on each believer and church to be involved in His mission to the world.

The second phase is to be officially launched in October 2012 with training and inspiration events in India, Bangladesh, the Middle East, and the CIS. Those trained in Büdingen will already be involved in training others at these events in their respective fields.

Ravi Gopal, a JESUS Film team member in the Andhra Pradesh District, India, said that although he has been involved in evangelizing and church planting for several years through JESUS Film ministry, Training the Trainers changed his thinking.

“I was doing it for six years – evangelism and church planting – for the sake of somebody else. The vision should become my vision,” Gopal said during a break between sessions.

“This is not a training but it’s a challenge for us all,” added Trisha Das, a pastor and compassionate ministries coordinator from Calcutta, India. “Each and every Christian has the responsibility of church planting or witness Christ to others.” ♦



# FREEDOM: Youth discussed slavery issues

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and how all this breaks the heart of God,” Jara said. “Also to generate a response from the young people participating [and] committing themselves to advocate and speak in behalf of the voiceless; to help young participants to identify geographical areas where modern slavery happens.”

Some of the highlights of the day designed to inform the participants and get them involved in the cause included graphic presentations of information about all forms of modern slavery and how this contributes to human degradation. One of the main resource persons was Mrs. Pranitha Timothy, director of After Care, International Justice Mission, Chennai.

The participants were also divided into country groups and were asked to discuss issues of slavery particular to their countries and how they could be agents of change. Additionally, different stations focused on different slavery issues, and youth visited the stations to pick up information and pray.

Each participant signed a commitment to make a significant change to these issues.

“While attending these sessions I received the wisdom and knowledge from Him and how to work for those needy people effectively, and I really thank God for it,” said James Patil, a participant from India.

The team that worked hard to put the “Freedom Day” together expressed hope that there would be positive outcomes from the emphasis.

“Through this we hope that Eurasia youth would be made aware about the modern slavery and how it breaks the heart of God, who actually wants humans to live in harmony and not in oppression and exploitation; all the



The participants at Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) in Chennai, India, were divided into country groups and asked to discuss issues of slavery particular to their countries and how they could be agents of change. Photos courtesy David Harris.

participants would discover how the caste and other kind of discrimination affects people from their own country and the other countries, too, and also to get a commitment from the [young] people to advocate and fight against child exploitation,” said Mrs. Sunita Meshramkar of NCM India.

One of the main reasons for this event



is that the youth of Eurasia and the world can be agents of influence and change and serve as role models for the children.

“They are the present and do have the energy, [enthusiasm] and motivation to attempt for change and attain it too,” Meshramkar said.

“Some of the issues we have heard about are still being processed, like the Roma, slavery and refugees, but honestly by now I have not taken any actions. Still thinking about it,” said Christoph Nick, a participant from Germany.

The planning team’s main hope is that the young people would be interested in doing something useful so that they can address issues of discrimination and slavery with practical action.

“This would be worked out in conjunction with ministries of compassion, systematically and intentionally, aimed at achieving the greater purpose,” Meshramkar said.

Many of the participants have returned home from NYC with a new enriched experience and a motivation to make a difference in their communities.

“It was a blessing for me to attend the day of freedom at NYC,” Patil said. “I was influenced by it and got the encouragement for working in children’s development.”

The core NYC team and the Freedom Day organizers wait in anticipation to see how this event will make changes in the generations to come in the communities where their young people have returned to. ♦



Above: There was a wide range of worship during the five-day event.

Left: One of the main reasons for Nazarene Youth Conferences is that the youth of Eurasia and the world can be agents of influence and change and serve as role models for children.

# Emphasize prayer and fasting

By Heidi Bowes  
Eurasia Region NMI Coordinator

The Church of the Nazarene's Board of General Superintendents and Nazarene Missions International (NMI) are inviting our Church to renew the practice of regular prayer and fasting.

In joining with our global Church, the Eurasia Region will be emphasizing this need throughout the coming months. Will you join us to allow the Holy Spirit to move more freely in our hearts, lives, church, and world?

Let us take a moment and look at examples of the work of the Holy Spirit in us, with us, and in our world. For these things we can be thankful.

However, we will also quickly find areas that desperately need the Holy Spirit's fresh outpouring and renewal. Perhaps we will sense needs in our lives, in our families and friends, in our churches, in our nation, or in other nations of the world where the Holy Spirit needs to have complete reign. The place to start is with prayer.

More information about prayer and fasting is available at <http://nmi.nazarene.org/10063/story.html>. Please feel free to

utilize these resources and forward them to NMI presidents, pastors, and others in your districts, asking them to join with us.

We look forward to what the Holy Spirit will say and do in and with us in the coming days.



# Community center in works for Albania

By Gina Grate Pottenger  
Eurasia Region Communications

*Kombinat, Albania* - For the past four years, the Kombinat Church of the Nazarene has been dreaming of its own community center, said long-time member and board member Eda Xhakollari.

The congregation has been delivering food to up to 100 economically struggling families monthly. They started off cooking meals in the church kitchen for 45 people for about six months, but the space was too small to serve all those who were in need. So they switched to simply delivering groceries.

"We were making visits to families [who had a] lot of social problems - divorce, gambling - so the church has been helping them economically and socially," she said.

If the church could have a larger space, they could expand their ministry to the poor beyond just meals. They could also launch programs for the elderly, open a reading room, teach Albanian to people who can't read, as well as provide vocational training for unemployed

and underemployed men and women, Xhakollari explained.

On May 30, the city's mayor invited Xhakollari and Ergest Biti, another lay leader, along with several other church members, and missionaries Steve and Rachel Beiler, to visit him at the city hall. The city leaders knew there were many families in financial hardship, but the city didn't have the resources to provide for them. When the mayor learned the Church of the Nazarene was already feeding them, and envisioning an expansion in services, he set up the meeting to offer the use of the old city hall.

"He said, if we do this program together, you can use this old office for free," Biti said.

A follow-up meeting with the mayor to discuss the details is expected to take place this fall, after the Beilers return from their home assignment in the United States (a speaking tour required of Nazarene missionaries every other year in their home country).

The feeding program is partially funded by several Nazarene churches in the United States. The Kombinat

# ALBANIA: Concert of collaboration

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Organization Mobilization came to train the Nazarene youth. And then other evangelical churches agreed to supply helpers for sharing Christ with the gathered crowd.

A local radio station invited Biti and one of the Operation Mobilization trainers for a live interview that gave more exposure to the church.

After the event, several new people visited the Kombinat Church of the Nazarene, which is in a neighborhood



A unicyclist was among the entertainment at the street concert. The concert was part of the Albanian Evangelical Alliance's three-month cross-denominational "Season of Service." Photo courtesy Ergest Biti.

on the outskirts of Tirana.

The evangelical collaborations didn't stop with a concert. Through the alliance, the Kombinat church invited Christian doctors to help them hold a free medical clinic at the church at the end of July. Seven doctors and three nurses participated, seeing more than 100 people. They tested for high blood pressure and diabetes, and provided other consultations.

"They were really showing God's love to people," Biti said. ♦

Nazarenes also began making jewelry to sell, with all the proceeds going into their feeding program.

As a result of this ministry, a number of new people and families have visited the church, and some have become regular attenders. ♦



## Germany District Launches Gemeindeakademie?

- Gemeindeakademie - church academy
- dual approach to ministerial training
- opportunity to minister under supervision and mentorship of an experienced pastor in a local church or church plant
- accredited online program of EuNC Deutsch
- program provides 137 ECTS
- leading to a certificate in Christian ministry
- fulfilling the ordination requirements of the Church of the Nazarene

Praxis and theory go hand-in-hand over a period of at least three years.

Pastor Mohn and the Gelnhausen Church of the Nazarene will launch the pilot project.

- get more information/register
- contact Hans-Günter Mohn  
gemeindeakademie@nazarenen.de

*I'm in!!!*



# Power of One

...it's here!



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



“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God - this is your spiritual act of worship.”  
 ~ Romans 12:1 (NIV)

## Upcoming Events

- 8-10 Oct • Field communication training, Second Pol conference, India
- 12-14 Oct • Reynolds Memorial Hospital 75th anniversary, Washim, India

[www.eurasiaregion.org](http://www.eurasiaregion.org)

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## Prayer Requests

- Pray for the youth who attended Eurasia Region NYC and are prayerfully seeking the Spirit’s leading in being change agents regarding modern day forms of slavery in their nations. Ask God to lead and guide them in standing up for human freedom.
- Pray for the Church of the Nazarene in Albania, as it intentionally responds to God-given opportunities for evangelism, compassionate ministry and collaboration with the greater Body of Christ.
- Pray for Laxmibai and Kunda and their family, as they witness to their friends and neighbors about the goodness and faithfulness of God.
- Pray that Nazarenes across the Eurasia Region will implement regular fasting and prayer into their lives, their family practice and their church disciplines.
- 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](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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