

# where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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## PORTUGAL DISTRICT OPENS NEW COFFEE SHOP MINISTRY



Photo courtesy Jenny Ward

The Portugal District opened a new Nazarene coffee shop in early November, a project that was in the works for several years.

By Jenny Ward  
Eurasia Region Communications

As ConCafé, the new local coffee shop in Mercês, Portugal, held its grand opening on Friday, 7 November, locals paused on the sidewalk, peering in through the large front windows. Cars stopped in the middle of the street as the drivers took in the newly renovated building. Two older men argued about whether a building this nice belonged in Cascais, a ritzy nearby neighborhood, or if this coffee shop was exactly what the neighborhood needed. As people trickled in and began asking questions, it was clear this coffee shop had become the center of many conversations in Mercês.

ConCafé, a Nazarene coffee shop ministry, is a long-time dream of the Portugal District and, led by U.S. volunteer missionary Krystal Loeber, has been several years in the making. To begin meeting the families in Mercês, Loeber held an opening day event at which kids were given freshly baked cupcakes in exchange for creating

an original painting. These paintings now hang in the art gallery section of ConCafé.

“The main goal I want for this coffee shop is to be a part of the neighborhood. I don’t want it to be a business...I want it to serve the community and be a part of the community,” said Krystal.

After its soft opening the week before, Loeber held an evening event with live jazz music and appetizers.

One family, who attended the cupcake event, returned to the live jazz event with a homemade cake for other locals. They said, “The space itself is spectacular and so different than any other place.”

Amongst those who visited the café, there was an overwhelming sense of excitement about the new coffee shop and what it may do for this neighborhood.

A woman who had been in ConCafé earlier that day returned with two friends

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## ‘CALLED AND CAPABLE’ WOMEN GATHER IN ROMANIA

By Gina Grate Pottenger  
Eurasia Region Communications

Eighty-two women from more than 15 different countries formed a large circle at the perimeter of the room on the final night of the Called and Capable Conference in Sighisoara, Romania, and passed broken bread and a glass of juice from one pair of hands to another.

The women took turns serving communion to one another, an act of solidarity with women leaders in many parts of the Eurasia Region who are not allowed to serve communion because they are women.

The significance of the moment was not lost on Olga Druzhinina, who is a pastor in Volgograd, Russia.

“It seems like we’re all united in Christ; whether we’re women or men we’re all allowed to share our gifts in Christ. Unity was the main feeling. We were united in one Spirit and I was able to feel the Spirit there.”

The Called and Capable Conference was envisioned as a time to gather women in ministry from across the Eurasia Region for

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*'I wanted to help others like me'*

## Service from hardship

By  
Gina Pottenger



Sisters Diala and Sally are Syrian refugees who fled to Beirut, Lebanon, with their other sister, brother and mother in 2013 because of the civil war. They connected with the Achrafieh Church of the Nazarene, which allowed them to stay in the church building for three months, because they had nowhere to go.

"It was very difficult; we did not have any place to live; we were not working and my father was not with us," said Diala. "Also because of the situation in Syria, we were feeling very depressed and overwhelmed."

"When I arrived to Lebanon I had very much fear and I felt weak," added Sally. "When we left Syria I felt the Lord has left us and we will not have anything to hope for."

The outpouring of support and love from the Nazarene church has carried the Syrian family through their hardships. In addition to housing the family, the church gave them food packages, and provided emotional and spiritual support.

"I was more and more changed by the love of the church and the people," said Diala. "I was away from the Lord, and I became very near to God. When I received Christ, I became a new person."

"I discovered that it's God's will for us to come here because we got to know Him more and we got to know the church and we felt the Lord has worked through all this so we can be near Him and we

enjoy His fellowship," Sally said.

"They were nominal Christians, they joined the church and became believers through the Nazarene church," said Pastor Andrew Salameh.

The two young women are leading a Tuesday through Friday educational program at the church for Syrian refugee children from kindergarten through 4th grade. Another group of children come for a separate educational meeting on Saturday afternoons. Altogether the church is educating 55 students. Diala and Sally use a curriculum similar to the Nazarene school also located in Beirut, which includes Bible stories, art and recreation time. And the church has a hot

meal program that feeds the children in the program twice a week.

The young women also visit the families in their homes, and teach Sunday school.

"I like to listen to people, what they have been through and how they are suffering, and how I can be a help for them," said Diala, "first because I am a Syrian and I experienced what they are experiencing. As I received help from the people, I wanted also to help others who are in a similar situation like me."

The young women are providing education to children at the same time that they have lost the opportunity for their own education. **see "SYRIA" • page 3**



Photo courtesy Gina Pottenger

# WOMEN: Different contexts, similar challenges

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Photo courtesy Louise Kenyon

More than 80 women leaders from over a dozen nations gathered in Romania to learn, debate and encourage one another in ministry.

training, debate, encouragement and relationship-building. Lay leaders and ordained women were present. It was not limited to Nazarenes, as women were also invited from Free Methodist and Wesleyan Holiness churches and the Salvation Army.

“It was more than a women’s retreat; it was meant to be very much addressing the issues that we work with in our ministries as well as just the issues that directly affect women or people who are working with women,” said Louise Kenyon, a lecturer at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, UK, who helped to plan the event.

There were eight workshops which

ranged in topic from human trafficking to church planting, from spiritual pathways to ethical finance. Each day also included morning devotions and prayers, evening worship services, trips to visit local ministry projects, and small group outings. Dr. Paul Tarrant, of Glasgow, Scotland, was present as a medical consultant to conduct health checks for any women who requested them.

For Rev. Dheerender Bhola, pastor of the Dua ka Ghar Church of the Nazarene in Delhi, India, it was her first time to travel outside India, but the conference was a worthwhile reason.

“The conference meant a great deal to me,” she wrote. “I have learned so many things to improve my ministry through

these workshops. I had the amazing privilege to hear so many testimonies and great works of various ministries. I could see the bold and transformative leadership there. It is an unforgettable experience.”

Being together, coming from different nations and cultures, allowed for the women to learn from one another and in turn find encouragement in their own ministries.

Druzhinina attended the church planting workshop, led by Annemarie Snijders and Zhana Georgiva, both church planters in the Netherlands and Bulgaria, respectively. Druzhinina said the women presented honestly the challenges and struggles they’ve encountered in planting and leading churches. She realized that challenges she has experienced or observed in Russia are not unique to her culture or even to her own ministry, but are common experiences for any church planting effort, and may be faced by other women in ministry as well.

Kenyon said that listening to the stories of specific ministry challenges in other cultures on the Eurasia Region, she realized that those challenges have parallels in other cultures, even if they are expressed in different ways.

Annemarie Snijders enjoyed being surrounded by other women leaders on the ministry journey with her.

“For years I’ve been the only [ordained woman] in the Netherlands District. So it’s very encouraging to meet other people who are ordained and who struggle with some of the same issues,” Snijders said. □

# SYRIA: Women draw on experience as refugees

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Sally had just finished high school but fled Syria before she could take the government final exam to qualify for graduation. She dreams of a future in singing and being a pianist. Diala still dreams of going to university and studying childhood education and development or psychology.

“I wanted to help [other refugees] because the Lord has helped us a lot,” said Sally. “I felt that I should be helping others and specially to help the children to have a smile on their faces and give them as much as I can, because I have been given a lot.” □



Photo courtesy Gina Pottenger

Sally and Diala lost the opportunity to go on to college because of the war in Syria, but they don’t want these children to miss out on their own education.

# Netherlands mission team goes to Romania

By Jenny Ward  
Eurasia Region Communications

The Church of the Nazarene in the Netherlands sent a Work & Witness team to Sighișoara, Romania from 11 to 26 October. This team consisted of 19 people, ranging in age from 30 to 63, from eight different Nazarene churches throughout the Netherlands. Rolf Noordhof, who attends the Church of the Nazarene in Amersfoort, led the trip.

This was Noordhof's fourth trip to Sighișoara, having led a youth organization to Romania 10 years ago. Upon meeting the Nazarene Church he then returned half a year later and then in 2007 he brought 44 computers to Sighișoara as the church continued to develop.

They traveled to Sighișoara with three main goals in mind. The first was to help rebuild the church so it can serve as a multifunctional location complete with a youth room and large kitchen to prepare meals for the elderly.

"Relu Cristurean, [pastor of the Sighișoara church, Romania], has big dreams about using the building for outreach so that the church can grow again...they want to renew youth in Sighișoara," said Noordhof.

In the past the church was filled with over 20 youth members, but in Romania many young students leave to study elsewhere, sometimes even leaving the country. Cristurean hopes they can restore the building and create a place where the youth in Sighișoara will be able to spend time again.

The second goal was to visit the elderly several times a week. The elderly



A mission team from the Netherlands traveled to Romania to support Nazarene churches there.

members of the mission team enjoyed meeting with the elderly of Sighișoara.

"To talk, to pray, and to encourage them...that was a splendid time for them," said Noordhof.

The third goal was to reach out to the children at the Church of the Nazarene in Tigmandru, a nearby Romanian village. There were about 30 to 40 children and Noordhof and his team visited them six times during their stay.

"We went for a short Bible story, to sing with them, play a little guitar, I brought my clarinet, and we shared small gifts with them."

As the team worked together throughout the 15-day trip, they realized

they were also forming a strong bond.

"Although the team was very different in ages, in skills, everyone found a place and worked very well together," said Noordhof. "Some team members said they've never felt so accepted and like they belonged to a group than this week. Now that's remarkable."

Roberta Bustin, a volunteer missionary in Romania, thanked Noordhof and his team for their visit. They helped the Church of the Nazarene in Sighișoara feel connected to the international church and provided encouragement to the pastoral team as they continue to develop the church building. □





# Save The Date

**Who:** All Nazarenes in the Eurasia Region

**What:** You are invited to attend the Eurasia Regional Conference.

**When:** 31 October - 4 November 2015

**Where:** Different facilities, but fly to the same airport as last time.

**Why:** Join with others from across the Eurasia Region for a time of spiritual renewal and fellowship.

**Mark your calendars! More information to follow.**

## **2 Corinthians 5:14-21 (NIV)**

**14** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. **15** And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. **16** So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! **18** All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: **19** that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. **20** We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. **21** God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

## **New resource available in Romanian**

By Jonathan Phillips  
Special to Eurasia Communications

The Church of the Nazarene in Romania has recently published a new resource for membership development. The book, which is titled *The Church of the Nazarene: A Living Faith*, is part of the much larger and ongoing project of translating the *Manual of the Church of the Nazarene* into Romanian.


*A Living Faith* is envisioned to provide members with an accessible overview of the church. It is a

compilation and slight adaptation of the sections from the *Manual* that focus on what Nazarenes believe and how they are expected to live out their faith, thereby omitting the *Manual* sections on administrative policies and church government structures. In addition to excerpts from the *Manual*, *A Living Faith* also contains an updated version of the Core Values brochure, which has been available in Romanian since 2001.

*A Living Faith* was introduced at the Romanian District Assembly on 21 November and will be distributed to all members of the three organized local

churches in Romania. Additionally, copies will be made available to those who attend Nazarene ministries in other locations. It is expected that the book will be used in preparing candidates for church membership for years to come.

Editorial work is continuing on the first complete and official translation of the *Manual* into Romanian. It is expected to be finished in early 2015.

*A Living Faith* can be downloaded from the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library under the Romanian title *O Crediță Vie*. Visit <https://www.whdl.org/> 

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”  
—Isaiah 7:14

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## COFFEE: Cafe donation-based

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and said, “We love the fireplace. It’s a wonderful place to come and sit.” This group of friends took pictures of the shop and posted them to Facebook.

“I am without words. I like to see the people from the community, not only the old, but also the youth and I’m excited to see the role [ConCafé] will play in the community,” said Josué Delgado, the local jazz musician playing that night.

One of the difficulties Loeber and the Portugal District are facing is that since this is a revolutionary idea for this community—a donation-only coffee sho—it will take time for people to get

used to the idea. They plan to tackle this obstacle by sticking to their mission: “We want this place to be a way of relating with [the Portuguese] and fellowship with them....When we are friends with them, who knows, we may have a chance to talk about life and Jesus Christ,” said João Pedro Pereira, district superintendent of Portugal.

Check out the next edition of *Where Worlds Meet* to learn more about how ConCafé started, the many people who keep it running, and how they plan to carry out God’s mission. □

## Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the new coffee shop ministry in Portugal, that the ministry team would find open hearts and lives among their guests, establish relationships and spread the love of God in the neighborhood.
- Please pray for the women leaders--laity and ordained--across the Eurasia Region, that they would be empowered by the Holy Spirit and find unwavering support for their ministry.
- Pray for Sally and Diala as they try to establish a new life while ministering to fellow Syrian refugees. Ask God to provide clear leading in their lives, deepen their faith and bless their ministry.

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 [communications@eurasiaregion.org](mailto:communications@eurasiaregion.org) or visit [www.eurasiaregion.org](http://www.eurasiaregion.org).

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

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