

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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ALBANIA GOD AT THE GARBAGE DUMP



Vera Broli (far right) took the initiative to walk to a local garbage dump every week to hold a Bible study for Roma people who make their living off the trash.

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

They might be an unlikely missionary team, or perhaps they are the most likely: An elderly woman and a young woman, members of a local church in Albania who—on their own initiative—twice a week visit a garbage dump in Sharr to pour themselves into an impoverished community of ostracized Roma people.

Vera Broli lives in a small cement-block house near the garbage dump in Sharr. In Sharr lives a community of Roma people – an often impoverished ethnic group that lives on the fringes of societies across Europe. The Roma people in Sharr live off the trash and discarded items that are brought to the dump in their neighborhood.

Broli herself is not well-off, nor is she young. But on Mondays she faithfully walks to the dump, which is near her own home, to teach the Bible to the

Roma people. Every other day she walks about three kilometers to the church in which she is a member.

In her daily devotions, she takes notes about the truths she finds in the Bible. Then she reads these notes to the Roma people who gather as part of her Bible study.

“We have the service outside because they don’t have houses, they have just these little wood things. They don’t even have any stools to sit on, they sit on the ground,” Broli said. “They were very hungry for the Word of God. They always are after us to listen more to the Bible, because they can’t read, most of them.”

Broli was praying that God would bring other people to work alongside her in Sharr. “The harvest was big but I didn’t have workers.”

Meanwhile, over a year ago, the

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Staying mission true

By Arthur Snijders
Eurasia Regional Director

Editor’s note: This is the first in a four-part series of reflections by Eurasia Regional Director Arthur Snijders on the four priorities set for the region in the coming days. The first regional priority is interconnectedness.

“What is on your heart as regional director?” our editor asked me. It made me realize that after one year my heart and mind are filled with many, many images and memories of diversity we have encountered.

Annemarie and I were moved by the image of Syrian refugee children learning English from Nazarenes in a local church in Beirut, Lebanon. We smile when we think of the image of Sri Lankan pastors firing many questions at us about a tricky topic. And we were humbled to see our Indian congregation praying with fervor. I am made to think hard when I remember the impressions gathered from talking to our regional finance team about how to make ministry possible.

On and on it goes.

Annemarie and I have come to deeply care about the people in our region. We have been in every field in this our first year. And the more we see and talk with our pastors,

Helping survivors of human trafficking

They are starting to open themselves like a flower,

By
Gina Grate
Pottenger



Bucharest, Romania – Chirila “Betty” says that when she was growing up with an alcoholic and abusive father, she didn’t feel secure; she didn’t feel love. Fortunately, when she was 18, a young man she knew invited her to church.

What if a different guy had invited her somewhere else? To his house, maybe? To meet a “friend”? What if that guy sniffed out vulnerability and took advantage? And then he sold her to a pimp, tricking her into human trafficking, a trap from which she could not escape?

That didn’t happen.

Instead, although she identified herself as an atheist, she accepted the invitation to visit the Church of the Nazarene where everyone was cheerful and the youth group welcomed her with open arms. After attending regularly for a while, she accepted Christ in a youth camp and began singing in the church’s worship team. She went on to college, earned a bachelor’s degree and then a master’s degree in psychology.

Now, as a psychologist at the Open Door, an emergency shelter for human trafficking survivors in Bucharest, Betty can empathize with the girls who come there to escape the hopeless black hole of sexual slavery. Like them, she remembers a childhood without the nurturing, safe feelings of being loved by one’s family. Although her life took

a different course, the women and girls can sense her compassion informed by experience.

She was invited to join the staff by Monica, the Nazarene who founded the nonprofit shelter. The young man, Simi, who initially invited her to church, is an administrator at the shelter.

It’s the most fulfilling work Betty could have imagined.

“If you can change a life, then you can say you accomplished the mission of the Lord.”

-- Betty

“[The women are] not confident in themselves and that’s one of the things that made them vulnerable for trafficking,” she says. “When they start to feel that they’re loved and when you start to give them attention, they are starting to open themselves like a flower, like a tulip.”

Betty has worked with about 30 survivors over the course of her time at Open Door. Normally there is only space for a handful to live at the shelter at any one time. The government brings the rescued survivors to the shelter, where Monica’s team takes over in caring

for them and providing rehabilitative activities, such as teaching them to cook, manage money, shop and clean house.

She also helps them work out a plan to finish high school if they didn’t graduate, as well as to find companies who will interview and potentially hire them for jobs. The intent is to shape in the women a new healthy self-awareness and teach them to interact in healthy ways with others, as they become independent and re-enter society.

“They have no idea how to live, how to cook or clean or how to wash their clothes,” she says. “They depend on people. We’re trying to teach them how to live by themselves. It’s pretty difficult because many of them got used to a negative lifestyle; it’s pretty hard for them to adjust to a positive lifestyle.”

The shelter houses each woman for about 18 months, but cases are assessed individually, and women can stay longer if the staff evaluates that they need more time. The shelter also offers non-residential assistance to minors, currently working with 16 children.

After having been involved so closely with redemptive work among trafficking survivors, Betty is frustrated that she perceives many Christians are still blind to the staggering reach of human trafficking.

Teanna Sunberg, missionary in

JESUS Film team member dies in accident

“Well done good and faithful servant.”

We are confident Rev. Biprosch Devsharma has received this greeting from the Lord. Devsharma was on the roof of a home setting up for a *JESUS* film presentation when he fell from the roof, sustaining severe injuries. After being in the hospital a short time, he was pronounced dead.

Just 30 years old,

Devsharma, the oldest of three sons, is survived by his wife and 18-month-old son. Additionally, he was caring for his parents at the time of his death.

Devsharma has long worked to share Jesus in his country of India to his people. In 2003, while still in school, he became a team helper. He progressed to team member status and concluded his

service as a team leader.

Last year, Devsharma's team showed the *JESUS* film 52 times providing 7,130 evangelistic contacts with 926 people becoming new believers in Christ! Under his leadership, 11 preaching points were established.

“He used to take me on his bicycle to visit compassionate ministry centers and preaching points. We

traveled many places together when I was his *JESUS* Film coach. I have many good memories with him,” said Reverend Chatterjee, district superintendent.

Continue to pray for his family as they transition through this unexpected tragedy. Pray for his team members as they carry on the work without his leadership. □



Learn about JESUS Film ministry at: www.JFHP.org

ALBANIA: Women live out missional calling

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Kombinat Church of the Nazarene sent its youth to host a Christmas service and present a drama in Sharr to the Roma people. Jeta Mukaj, a member of the youth group, participated. She was disturbed to see the children running barefoot amidst the trash because they didn't have shoes.

“I asked God, ‘If you want me to do something for them, just tell me what to do and I'll do it.’ I heard in that moment, ‘They need love and they need attention, that's all they need,’” Mukaj said.

The young woman (photo right) knew that Broli was already visiting the community, so she proposed that they go together. It was an answer to Broli's prayers. The two women normally visit the community on Saturdays to work with the children, except less often during days with very rainy and challenging weather this past winter.

Missionary Steve Beiler, who leads the ministry in Albania, was thrilled at the women's initiative.

“It's one of these things that for us is exciting [because] it's not missionary-led or missionaries saying we should do this. It's people in the local church who are saying, ‘They need Jesus as well; can I do something?’”

The first time Mukaj visited, her boyfriend was with her, and they played a game of football (soccer) with the children. One of the little boys began crying when it was over.

“He was saying, ‘Don't leave, please



Jeta Mukaj sensed God stirring compassion in her for the children who live at the garbage dump. She decided to visit the community on Saturdays to share God's love with them.

don't leave. I don't want to go home because my father screams and hits me,” Mukaj recalls. “They have lots of problems. Most of the time they stay on the street asking people to give them money for food; others will beat them, say mean words and they're used to it.”

Broli invited the interested people to attend the Kombinat Church of the Nazarene, but they are unwilling to go because they are afraid that, like in other areas of society, they would not be accepted by the people, and it is a long journey from where they live. That is why Broli continues to hold services in Sharr.

The people are learning to trust in God to provide for their needs. They often ask God to let them find something in the trash that they can sell so they can buy food.

One time a woman asked God to help her, and later in the trash she found \$80. When the kids asked God to help their families, one of the kids found \$150.

“Their trust in God started growing. They started to understand this thing is good,” Broli said. “Last Easter we had a special service with them. The women did the salvation prayer; 15 people, including men, accepted Christ.” □



Ambassadors for Christ

EURASIA 31 October - 4 November 2015 Regional Conference

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.

HELP: 'God's eyes'

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Hungary, reported in an *Engage* magazine article:

According to the International Labour Organization's June 2012 Press Release, Central Europe and the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) Fields have the highest number of trafficking victims per thousand inhabitants globally. These two parts of Europe account for 7 percent of the global trafficking market. In other words, 1.6 million people from Romania and the Eastern European neighborhood are trapped in forced labour situations today, according to an article (<http://goo.gl/b81rwp>)

"If we would have God's eyes, we will see things the way God sees them," Betty says. "You can close your eyes in front of reality. That doesn't make the problem disappear. That makes you ignorant. Right now I don't want to do anything else. If you can change a life, then you can say you accomplished the mission of the Lord. They need me. I hope one day we will get more people involved." □

MISSION: Love in diversity

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laypeople and missionaries, the more we are impressed and moved by your courageous trust in Christ and the love for your people.

After all these encounters, we are in the process of understanding what these impressions mean for the ministries across Eurasia. One thing that stands out clearly is that our diversity as a region is enormous, almost overwhelming. What is holding us together?

In many places the diversity causes alienation and conflict; so many national interests pull us in different directions. But what an opportunity the variety provides to find out what it means to be Christ's ambassadors in our place of service.

Diversity can tear us apart, but it can also show us our culture as the canvas on which Christ's face is to be painted. Unless we face the hot issues of our country, culture or city we can't be His ambassadors *there*. So yes we have to grapple with our secularization, or the poverty, or the militant expression of a majority faith, or the vast numbers of children and young people desperate for a future. Christ wants someone who understands *this* place, who will take it to heart, and who learns to speak the

language of downtown Frankfurt, or of the villages in Bangladesh. And in turn He teaches us to understand *His* place, and *His* language.

Our first regional priority is creating a culture of connectedness. As Nazarenes we can't ignore one another, or compete with one another. *We will not walk away from one another!* That is not the Nazarene way.

So how do we connect? What makes us good ambassadors where we are?

- Ask good questions; help one another to listen (with the heart) before speaking.
- Understand conflicts; don't ignore them. We are *friends* of truth, calling things by their right names.
- Practice peace making. Build bridges by forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Trust Christ in the other; call Him forth out of the other.
- Testify (and remember) to interventions of God's mercy, bringing unity, healing relationships.

This is in our hearts: let us draw deeply on the resources of the Holy Spirit to turn differences into shining examples of His multi-colored mercy and victory. □

Boy gives to NMI 100th ann. mission projects

By Trino Jara
Special to Eurasia Communications

Ari Kevork is a young boy in our small fellowship group in Yerevan, Armenia; he lives with his parents and little sister Arleen who migrated from Lebanon to Armenia last year. In his life, Ari has shown a very tender heart, listening to and loving Jesus as his personal Savior.

Last year the Armenia District adopted two small projects in Cambodia and Philippines for the celebration of the Nazarene Missions International 100th anniversary (read more here: <http://nmi.nazarene.org/NMI100/nmi100.html>). In order to keep the people informed and motivated to give for the projects, the Yerevan NMI president and the church leadership printed a colorful thermometer, and every month as people give what they have proposed in their hearts, the thermometer is marked in red. As time has passed, the thermometer has grown and it is expected that, during the Armenia District Assembly at end of March, the funds for the first project will be presented. It is expected to have the funds for the second project ready in October and presented during the Eurasia Regional Conference.

One day Ari came to his mom and shared with her his desire to participate in the fundraising for the NMI 100th anniversary celebration that his local church in Yerevan was doing. He proposed in his heart to give from his weekly allowances 300 Drams (Armenian local currency), but it is not all; every week he is also putting another 100 Dram in the Alabaster fund, which pays for the purchasing of land and the construction of mission-related buildings around the world. Considering the amount he is receiving every week from his parents, Ari is sharing 20 percent of his income.

When asked why he was doing it, his answer was that he wants to help other people. Ari loves God and he knows that God is very pleased with what he is doing.

The story of Ari and his generous heart is a story of a boy who is giving from what he has to please God. All over the world there are many kids like Ari sacrificing to give for the needs of others. In the past years, our CIS Field has been receiving economic support from offerings collected globally from kids through the Sunday school ministry “Kids Reaching Kids” (see right). It is through the generosity of children that we can perform vacation Bible school in our field.

To all the generous kids worldwide: Thank you for your example of giving. ☐



Read more about “Kids Reaching Kids” projects here: <http://nazarene.org/ministries/ssm/children/programs/vbs/kids/display.html>

“Then the people were glad because their offerings were freely given, for with a true heart they freely gave what they had to the Lord.”

-- 1 Chronicles 29:9 (BBE)

NMI 100th anniversary projects available

NCN News

Nazarene Missions International (NMI) announced the more than 1,400 initiatives for its 100th Anniversary Project are accessible in several languages through a Google Translate button on each Web page.

The NMI 100th Anniversary Project gives districts the opportunity to assist with ministry needs in other districts around the world as NMI reaches its 100th anniversary in October 2015.

In the fall, leaders from JESUS Film Harvest Partners, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, the Church of the Nazarene’s International Board of Education, and districts, fields, and regions throughout the denomination submitted lists of initiatives they would like to see accomplished in their areas. More than 1,400 initiatives

were submitted and processed by NMI and Donor Services. Each district is encouraged to meet the needs of another district through adopting one of the 1,400-plus initiatives listed and sending in funds for the sponsors to complete the project by October 2015.

In the past, NMI projects named one topic and set a monetary amount for the project goal. For the 100-year celebration, NMI leaders wanted to focus on participation, whether it be giving of financial resources or being involved in a hands-on project. The goal for the 100th Anniversary Project is “100 percent participation by each of the 461 districts globally,” and that goal is being realized.

Initiatives are varied — providing poultry for women to start small businesses, offering theological training

for Nazarene leaders, digging wells, and many others. The initiatives offer a wide variety, whether districts want to minister to others physically, spiritually, emotionally, or socially.

Amounts needed for initiatives range from US\$20 to US\$560,000. With a broad range, all districts can find an initiative within their congregations’ budgets. On some districts, children and youth are adopting their own initiatives from the list, while adults adopt other initiatives. Districts may adopt as many initiatives as they wish; while most districts adopt one to six initiatives, a few others have adopted up to 27 assignments.

Visit the website for more information and to see a list of initiatives: <http://nmi.nazarene.org/NMI100/nmi100.html>. ☐

Watch video of Portugal's new café ministry: <http://tiny.cc/a0ovux>



Read more about the ConCafé grand opening in Engage magazine: <http://tiny.cc/tdhxux>

Is God calling you to volunteer at ConCafé? Check out M-Power: eurasiaregion.org/volunteers

Loeber follows grandparents as missionary in Portugal

By Jenny Ward
Eurasia Region Communications

Starbucks has become a staple for good coffee, but it also became the place that prepared Krystal Loeber for serving at the coffee ministry, ConCafé, in Lisbon, Portugal.

"I always said that Starbucks supported my ministry habit," said Loeber, who spent nine years working at Starbucks to support herself through college and seminary.

While she was learning to be a barista, the Lord prepared her in many other ways.

Loeber studied Urban Ministry at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City while also working in the Kansas City Rescue Mission.

"That was really formative for me to be around different sorts of people that I'm not used to, and seeing that side of life and understanding it much more differently than I did before," said Loeber.

After earning her master's degree, Loeber returned to her hometown, Seattle, Washington, where she became involved in a church that started an urban ministry similar to ConCafé.

"They had an open space and they called it a community living room where people could come in at night and have conversations. Through that the church

grew," said Loeber.

Loeber credits all of these experiences as ways the Lord uniquely prepared her to help ConCafé.

Jayme Himmelwright, until recently a missionary on the Western Mediterranean Field and wife to Kyle Himmelwright, formerly the field strategy coordinator for the field, said, "She was also an art major, so not only does she have the coffee experience and theological formation, but she also has an artistic formation that's really useful within a coffee ministry."

The Himmelwrights attended Nazarene Theological Seminary with Loeber and five years later contacted her when they were looking for a volunteer to get ConCafé off the ground.

Loeber flew to Lisbon, Portugal, upon hearing the need for a volunteer to lead this ministry. Having grown up in a missionary family Loeber knew she was interested in serving cross-culturally, and that when she did serve, she wanted it to be long-term.

"Krystal's grandparents started the Church of the Nazarene in Brazil... Portugal...and the Azores. To see how that generational spiritual heritage was being passed down from grandparents who began the Church of the Nazarene



in [Portugal] and now God was sending their granddaughter back to continue their ministry was a pretty awesome thing," said Jayme. "One of those small details where you think only God could bring that together."

"She's a woman of faith and I think above all it has to be that," said Kyle. "You have to have quite a bit of faith that people in this community are going to walk through this door and through our broken Portuguese, and are going to find connection in significant ways."

Loeber is not only a woman of faith, but she is woman of commitment. In order to come to Lisbon, Loeber had to raise two years' worth of a salary and



Churches prepare for Easter Offering for global mission

Mark Lail
Stewardship Ministries

It is our privilege to join you in prayer and preparation for the Church of the Nazarene's annual Easter Offering for the World Evangelism Fund. The combined generosity of our churches provides incredible resources for spreading the hope of Christ all over the world. Through offerings given to the World Evangelism Fund, we are now doing more than ever to make Christlike disciples in the nations.

Every Tongue Confess is the theme for this year's Easter Offering. We received an indescribable gift when God sent His only Son to die for our sins. This Easter, we reflect on that precious gift of salvation and the chance we have to share this gift with others as we eagerly

anticipate Christ's second coming. We join together through our gifts to ensure that the message is spread worldwide and that all are able to glorify Christ as our risen Lord.

I encourage you to begin organizing your church, district, field or region for the upcoming Easter Offering. We have an urgent and vital mission to fulfill. Together, we share Christ with everyone, everywhere, in the hopes that Every Tongue Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

The global Easter Offering date is 5 April 2015. Some districts or churches may schedule their Easter Offering for a different date, so do not hesitate to contact your local office with any questions about the date of the offering

for your church.

Resources in English are available at nazarene.org/generosity. If you have any questions, please contact Stewardship Ministries at 1-800-544-8413 or stewardship@nazarene.org.



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”
—Galatians 5:22-23

Upcoming District Assemblies March

4	Bangladesh
11	Ukraine
14	Central Asia
13-14	Germany
14	Hungary
18	Russia South
21	Russia North
21	France
20-21	British Isles South
22-23	British Isles North
27-28	Netherlands

FAITH: Woman of ‘commitment’

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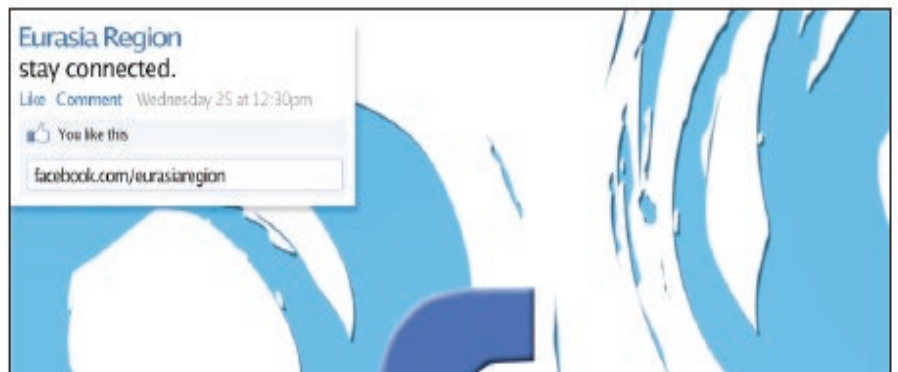
plans to stay in Lisbon indefinitely.

“I’m not in a hurry to only be here for two or three years,” said Loeber. “If I’m here for the rest of my life, I’m here for the rest of my life.”

With this drive and commitment, ConCafé has opened its doors to the people of Lisbon and extends a cup of coffee and a place to build relationships.

“I want [ConCafé] to serve the community and be a part of the community,” said Loeber. “A space like this calls people to be the best that they can be and to have the complete fullness that I think God created us to have, to be who we are meant to be, individually and uniquely.” □

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Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Jeta Mukaj and Vera Broli as they personally sacrifice their time and energy to pour the love of Jesus into a Roma community built around a garbage dump. Ask that many find Christ personally.
- Please pray for the family and ministry colleagues of Bipros Devsharma as they mourn his loss. Ask God to bring comfort and provide for the needs of his family. Pray also for the JESUS film team as they carry on the work.
- Ask God to bless the ConCafé ministry in Portugal, that many would find Christ personally through its ministry and that the church would grow.
- Ask God to bless Chirila “Betty” and her ministry among women and children who have been enslaved and are now free; pray that the survivors would find complete healing and rest in Jesus’ arms, and for Betty to have strength for the work.
- 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 or visit www.eurasiaregion.org.

We welcome stories, photos and prayer requests. E-mail submissions to communications@eurasiaregion.org

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