

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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E. MED FIELD CONFERENCE FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS



The Eastern Mediterranean Field, which encompasses Nazarene work in several Middle East countries, held a field gathering to bring unity.

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

Singing, “We will climb mountains in your name and the enemy is defeated in front of us,” several dozen attendees of the Eastern Mediterranean Field Conference gathered for worship and vision-casting meetings, deeply conscious of the conference’s theme, “for such a time as this.”

With the Middle East in a state of unprecedented upheaval, and the relatively few Nazarene churches valiantly trying to help thousands of the region’s millions of refugees from war-torn areas, the pastors and lay leaders who gathered March 18-21 were aware of their need for unity, shared goals and working together as they never have before.

“Teamwork is important, and I need to establish a team from this group, from different churches, countries and backgrounds, but we need to hold the

same vision,” said Khalil Halaseh, a long-time pastor in Jordan and recently named the new field strategy coordinator for the field, which also includes the Holy Land, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Cyprus and two secure access countries.

Halaseh called the conference so he could put into motion his four-part plan for the field, starting with developing leaders, who will go on to the second point of making disciples; the disciples move the plan to the third point of starting cell groups, which eventually will mature into the final part of the plan to plant new churches.

The conference of Nazarene leaders was blended into a John Maxwell EQUIP leadership training event that attracted more than 100 leaders from various denominations in Jordan. Halaseh has been an EQUIP trainer and organizer in Jordan for several years; he is stepping

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Regional priority or desperation?

By Arthur Snijders
Eurasia Region Director

Editor’s note: This is the second 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 was interconnectedness. The second priority is prayer and fasting.

During our visit to the city of Kolkata (previously Calcutta), India, I asked, “How many people live here?” The answer was, “About 19 million people,” and was followed by the return question, “How many people live in the Netherlands?” Sheepishly I answered, “About 17 million in all of our country.”

Just thinking about these numbers makes me feel very small. And Kolkata is only one large city in the Eurasia Region. What about Dhaka, Lahore or Moscow? How very challenging and, also, how humbling to ask myself what we can do to reach those living in the mega-cities for Christ. When we add the number of immigrants, or the number of languages, or the influence of majority religions to the mix it is altogether baffling.

And what to make of the spiritual challenges of our cultures,

see “PRAYER” • page 4

'This is a church that gives equal opportunity,'

First woman ordained in Sri Lanka

By
Gina Grate
Pottenger



In January this year, Kawshalya became the first woman pastor to be ordained in the Church of the Nazarene in Sri Lanka. Hers is a story of overcoming hardship and heartache to obey God's call into full-time ministry. She shared her story with Rev. Simon Jothi, principal of South Asia Nazarene Bible College, from which she graduated in January 2014.

Kawshalya grew up in a tea estate where her parents worked hard each day to pick the small green leaves from the endless rows of tea bushes under the hot Sri Lankan sun. When she was 8 years old, a friend invited her to a Christian Sunday school, which was her first exposure to the gospel. By the time she was 11, she had been attending the Sunday school regularly, and loved singing the songs and learning the stories about Jesus. At that point, she made the decision to accept Christ into her life, and was baptized – the first Christian in her family.

Her mother noticed a significant – and positive – change in her daughter's attitude and behavior, and became interested to know what she was learning at the church. So she began to attend with her daughter.

The family then moved to another village.

Then came a time for heartbreak

for Kawshalya's family. Desiring to go abroad for work, her brother contracted with an agent who promised to match him with an overseas employer for a large sum of money. The family took out a loan to pay the agent. But the agent was a scam artist and ran off with the money.

Now burdened with a huge loan they could not pay back, the family had to sell their home and all their belongings. Kawshalya's faith was shaken. She wondered why God had let this happen to her family. Her relationship with her brother was damaged.

"Even though materially she lost everything, God is able to fill her life."

-- Simon Jothi

At this low point in her life she met a Nazarene pastor from a neighboring village. He was visiting their small settlement to plant a new church there.

"The pastor assured her that God is able to fill her with joy and happiness; even though materially she lost everything, God is able to fill her life," Rev. Jothi said she told him. "She thought she can start afresh. She put her faith more in God and began a new life

in Christ, in trusting Him."

Her new hope in the face of a hopeless situation was a great testimony to her family. Through her renewed commitment, she was able to lead her mother to Christ.

She also began to sense that God was not only consoling and comforting her through this time of loss, but that He may be calling her to become a full-time evangelist.

Around this time, as is traditional, her parents wanted to find her a good husband from among their relatives, and they picked out a young man they felt would treat their daughter well. When she learned about the planned match, she wanted to ensure she would have a Christian husband. So she shared about Jesus with him and also led him to Christ. The couple were married.

Early in Kawshalya's marriage, the Nazarene pastor who had discipled her as a teenager began to invest in her calling to ministry. He enlisted her to join him in planting a new church in a nearby location. After they gathered a small group of new believers, he turned over the church-type mission to her so she could get leadership experience. Her husband and mother also supported her work.

"She discovered this is a church who gives equal opportunity for men and

CONFERENCE: Nazarenes seek unity, teamwork

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down from this responsibility as he takes up the field's leadership role, replacing the retiring Lindell Browning, who has led the field for more than 30 years.

During several conference sessions, the Nazarene leaders and pastors were invited to stand and share their thoughts or challenges in their ministry. One man said, "God is shaking the field because he wants to awaken the church."

Another man said that half of his congregation had immigrated because of violence and threats to them as Christians, and he wondered if they should close the church, or if he should immigrate, too.

Halaseh cited the historical situation of Israel in the Old Testament biblical book of Nehemiah, when Jerusalem lay in ruins because it had been invaded and sacked by the Babylonians and the Hebrew people had been forcibly removed to Babylon for a generation. Nehemiah, the cup-bearer to the new king of the Persians, had it in his heart to return to Jerusalem with the captives and rebuild the city and its gates. Halaseh compared the story to the situation today in the Middle East.

"The field is broken down and the gates are burned," he told the group. "What is happening in the field is not because of politics. The Lord wants the field to be one in unity. It is time for us to put weaknesses and broken relationships of the past behind."

Lo'ay Jawabreh, a pastor of the Jabal Amman Church, said he was struck by the fact that Halaseh focused on Nehemiah.

"January through March this year, the focus [in our church] was on Nehemiah. This is encouraging for me."

Jawabreh said that he was glad the conference made space for thinking together about the field's goals and next steps.

Samir Nazha, a volunteer chairman on the board of the Nazarene schools in Jordan, said it was a pleasure to be part of the conference, "because I can know all the people from the Middle East, so we can know what they are doing and sometimes we learn from them and maybe they learn from us."

Pastor Andrew Salameh, the district superintendent for Lebanon, said, "I think this is very important, this is our first meeting with Khalil. It was good to hear from him his vision and passion and



Photos courtesy Gina Grate Pottenger

During several sessions, the Nazarene leaders in the Middle East stopped to pray for one another. Building relationships and unity was a key focus of the conference.

heart. I felt from his first introduction that he's looking forward to our working together, and we can be more united and plant more churches and not be distracted. Although the Middle East is not stable, we believe God has called us for such a time like this, to make a difference."

Maryam, a pastor's wife in Egypt, said that for the past five years she and her husband have been praying for unity with the other Nazarenes on the field,

because they have felt alone in their ministry.

Another pastor, echoing the conference's theme that they were put in the field by God for this time in history, said, "It is now an open door. We don't need to have a worship service and then go home. We need to go out to the community." □



Leaders from other denominations joined the Nazarene leaders for a one-day EQUIP leadership training.



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: Same airport as last time, different venue

Why: Join with others from across the Eurasia Region for spiritual renewal and fellowship

How: Find out more from your district superintendent, pastor or field strategy coordinator

PRAYER: 'We desperately need to change'

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fanaticism, secularism or materialism, that are pitted against us like Goliaths? Our societies in Eurasia face much more violence than before. Paul's cry de Coeur comes to mind: "Who is sufficient for these things?" (2 Cor. 2:16).

Facing these realities rightly drives us to our knees. Dr. Jerry Porter, a general superintendent in the Nazarene denomination, said, "Prayer as discipline is not enough, it must be born out of desperation...If we don't turn to the Lord desperate prayer, we are really saying to the Lord, 'We don't need Your help, our wisdom is enough, our will power or our organization is enough.'"

Obviously, such thinking is human foolishness. Many breakthroughs happen unplanned and unexpected in answer to prayer. God, and not we, make them happen.

But desperate prayer needs to be nurtured. And the Christian church through the centuries has taught us how fasting and prayer go together. Fasting is doing more with less. Less food, fewer sweets, less shopping, less comfort. More hungry feelings, more reflection and confession, more time to pray, more

awareness of the needs of others, more desperation – more of God.

In certain parts of our region, districts have a monthly day of fasting (every first Friday). Other times we have several weeks of limited fasting (Daniel fast).

Prayer and fasting call for rhythm and for a purpose: we reach out and stretch ourselves as far as possible. Consider making prayer and fasting your personal priority:

- Fast and pray together with someone else, with your house group, with a friend, with your family. Pray and fast in community. It will certainly spark a thought-provoking conversation between you.
- Fast and pray for a need that you think is very hard to change, but that really needs God's intervention. Remember Queen Esther (Esther 4:16)
- Fast and pray for a need outside yourself. Jesus reminds us that the Father already knows what we need. Fasting is less of us, in order to see more of God's purposes.
- Fast and pray with God's Word. Fill your mind and heart with the Word.

Empty stomachs and full hearts can go together. On the Eurasia Region website you can download the Daniel Fast guide with Scripture and devotions.

The bottom line of prayer and fasting is that both our world and we ourselves desperately need to change. And God the Father can bring about magnificent change. So let's be hungry for God – together! ☐





M+POWER
EURASIA



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Become a missionary in the Eurasia Region!

Find out more and apply now.

To explore your call or train for missionary assignment,
visit the website.

www.eurasiaregion.org/volunteers

WOMAN: Goal to send more women into ministry

continued from page 2

women to be involved in the gospel,” said Jothi. “She felt this is like her home; she can work and associate with the other pastors even though she’s a woman.”

In a male-dominated society, it was a new experience for her. She decided to enroll in South Asia Nazarene Bible College (SANBC) in 2011. When she arrived for her first class, “she was very much surprised there were other ladies who worked in child development centers and JESUS Film ministries to come into the course of study. That gave her more confidence,” Jothi said.

During Kawshalya’s three years in the Course of Study – a Nazarene system of 25 or more courses designed to prepare clergy for ministry – she became the leader of a JESUS Film team. In that role, she leads a team of people who visit targeted locations to screen a film about the life of Jesus to people who likely have never heard of Jesus or the gospel before. Through watching the film, many people accept Christ into their lives. Then she and her team gather them into small groups that pursue ongoing discipleship in their new faith, eventually forming new churches. She has also pastored one church throughout her studies.

But ministry has not been her only challenge. Last year, Kawshalya’s husband was involved in a bicycle accident and was hospitalized with serious injuries. The family thought for a

time that he wouldn’t survive. For six months he has been recovering and thus unable to work or help care for their son.

Kawshalya had to balance caring for her husband, raising their child, earning an income, keeping up with her ministry and continuing full-time in the course of study through SANBC. Her joyful attitude in the midst of such difficulties impressed everyone, Jothi said.

“Her difficult situation in no way tempered her faith in God or diverted her attention from completing the course of study,” he said. “Now her goal for the future is to empower more and more women to actively participate in the ministry in our church. She already has mentored and sent one girl from her church to enroll in SANBC. Her goal is to send one to two women each year. She mentors and encourages them to go forward in ministry, to reach more and more women in the rural areas here in Sri Lanka.”

Jothi said that Kawshalya has been



Kawshalya completed her 3-year course of study while caring for an injured husband, raising their son, leading a JESUS Film team and pastoring a church.

partly responsible for a significant increase in women enrolled in SANBC.

“This year we have about 54 new students enrolled in Sri Lanka and about 15 to 20 percent were women students. It’s an increase. In the beginning, the ladies don’t know that they can enroll in ministry. When we say we want to embrace all, God has equally created all people, that is making people to respond and come. I think the Nazarene church is a kind of open door, a church that encourages more women.” □

Attend Regional Conference for inspiration

By Arthur Snijders
Eurasia Region Director

While at the Eurasia Regional conference in 2011, after all the powerful field presentations with special music presented by dozens of Nazarenes who had come for the conference from each field, just one representative from one of the fields stood on the platform, alone. No group of singers from his field joined him; no representatives, nothing. As I listened to this brother, I understood why: most visas were denied, preventing fellow Nazarenes from joining the conference. But sometimes less is more. Through his pictures and stories about human needs and suffering, and God’s people responding, we were provided a very clear focus. With increasing amazement, my wife and I listened to

stories about courageous Nazarenes getting involved with the suffering and problems of their nations: Tsunami help, sharing Christ with those without hope, helping child-soldiers to build a new life, some of our pastors nearly losing their lives in the ministry.

It opened a new world for me - a world where God showed He was still reigning, despite the tremendous and often disheartening struggles of whole nations and peoples. He was giving new hope through His children. I left with a deep longing to see these things for myself, but also tremendously encouraged that our church was part of this movement of God.

So, gathering for the Regional Conference 2015 (at the same area as 2011) is a real opportunity to enter a new world, God’s world, with fresh

outpourings of His Spirit. Small people are accomplishing great things in Jesus’ Name.

Make sure that you get the registration information from your field strategy coordinator and district superintendent. Make sure that you attend! Make sure to become an ambassador for Christ together with Eurasia Nazarenes. □



India Field Nazarenes led worship at the 2011 regional conference.

UK man helps Ebola patients in West Africa

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

“The moral imperative to try and help people less fortunate than us isn’t something I really question, it’s kind of a given. For me, the question is, how do I do that effectively in the situation that I find myself in?”

Matt Jackson’s situation is a doctor finishing his training in anesthesia and intensive care in Manchester, UK. An attendee at Longsight Church of the Nazarene for the past six years, Jackson recently returned from seven weeks assisting in a clinical trial for new Ebola treatment drugs in West Africa, working with patients who have contracted the virus and helping to train local nurses and doctors to participate in the trial.

Last summer and fall when the Ebola outbreak in West Africa was dominating European news headlines, Jackson felt he wanted to do something to help. He learned of the clinical trial that would be taking place at the start of this year in Liberia, and asked to join. With permission and support from his workplace and his wife and family, Jackson embarked for the seven-week mission.

Every day, in the sweltering heat he and his colleagues dressed in the multi-layered, full-cover suits they were required to wear to protect them from contracting the highly contagious Ebola virus from their patients.

Together with the local nurses, the team Jackson was working with would invite patients to participate in the clinical trial and explain all the details of what it would mean for them to do so. Those who agreed to the parameters would receive the treatment.

After about five weeks in Monrovia, Liberia, the team moved to Sierra Leone, where there were more patients, and concluded their time after two and a half weeks there.

Working in intensive care centers in the U.K., Jackson is well acquainted with death.

“Most of the patients referred to me in the U.K. are because they’re dying and the question is, can I offer something to prevent and reverse that,” he said.

He continued to see death while in Liberia.

He remembers three teenagers who were admitted at the same time to his treatment center. All three had been

orphaned when their parents died from Ebola; while grieving the loss of their parents, each of them had at least one sibling contract the disease, enter the treatment center, and then pass away.

Now it was their turn.

“You could see the fear in their eyes, as well as that they were still grieving for their parents and their family,” he said. “They were so worried that would happen to them as well. Of the three I’m thinking about, one recovered and two died.”

Jackson learned that those who survive Ebola do not face a trouble-free future. First, they continue to have physical problems even after they’ve fully recovered, such as ongoing stomach pain, partial paralysis, and other problems.

Additionally, survivors have been stigmatized in the culture, as those around them are afraid they can still contract the disease from the survivor.

While he was separated from his family and culture for seven weeks, involved in an emotionally intense and demanding situation, Jackson said that the support not only of his workplace, but also the prayers of his local Nazarene



church and family made him feel he could focus on the task at hand.

“That was quite a powerful emotion,” he said. “I think it helps you realize it’s not all about what you’re doing, the excitement you’re having, the egocentric way you can see aid work, but realizing there’ve got to be so many people in the background who may not be able to go themselves but can still provide that support to enable other people to go.” □

Manual translation summit

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

The Eurasia Region held its first *Manual* Translation Summit in early February in Budapest, Hungary, a regional effort to train teams involved with translating the Church of the Nazarene denomination’s guiding document, the *Manual*.

There were 10 language groups represented. Some of these groups have already begun updating their translations of the *Manual* to the current version (2013-2017). Others have an older version – 2005-2009 or even 1997-2001. Other language groups don’t yet have a *Manual*, so their first priority is translating the Articles of Faith section.

However, before any section of the *Manual* is translated, each language’s translation team needs to establish an agreed-upon lexicon of how terms will be consistently translated – not only throughout the *Manual*, but also in other Nazarene publications. These include both theological terms like “entire

sanctification” and organizational terms like “District Advisory Board.”

Creating a “Nazarene lexicon” proves to be a complex task, as there are numerous technical and theological terms in the original English version which have no exact counterpart in some other languages. This means that translators need to find creative ways to retain the meaning of these English words when explaining them or replacing them with similar words in their own languages.

“‘Superintendent’ is a strange word,” said Jonathan Phillips, the literature coordinator for Romania, who organized the summit, modeled after a similar summit held in South Carolina, U.S., in early 2014. “How do you translate ‘superintendent’ into Bulgarian or Croatian when they don’t have a word that quite says that with the same connotations that the English word has?”

Finding an accurate translation of the *Manual* is critical to the unity and development of the church in every language group where the church has a

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Churches prepare for Easter Offering for global mission

David W. Graves
General Superintendent

Nazarenes are generous people. During the first 106 years of the Church of the Nazarene, the denomination has been characterized by praise, thanksgiving and generosity. Through the combined gifts, prayers and ministry of people around the world, the church is sharing the gospel of Christ in 159 world areas.

We are pleased to announce that the theme of the 2015 Easter Offering for the World Evangelism Fund is “Every Tongue Confess.”

The Easter Offering encourages mission endeavors worldwide and is essential to our mission to make Christlike disciples in the nations.

The offering will be received on

5 April 2015 in countries following a Western church calendar. Resources are available at nazarene.org/generosity.

Here are some things to think about as you pray and ask God to instruct you on how to respond to His amazing gift of salvation and the call to share it:

- God has given everyone who believes the gift of eternal life through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.
- This offering is an opportunity to join with other Nazarene world regions in sharing the gospel
- Participation in the Easter Offering strengthens the World Evangelism Fund for making Christlike disciples in the nations.

On behalf of the Board of General Superintendents, I thank you in advance of this year’s offering for the prayers and sacrificial giving of your people. It is our hope that, through your continued generosity, we may share Christ with everyone, everywhere, in the hopes that Every Tongue Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

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

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.”
—Acts 3:19

Upcoming events April

- 5 Easter
- 11 Scandinavia District Assembly

- October**
- 31 - 4 Regional conference

SUMMIT: Translation is complex

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presence.

“It’s important that the essentials of the Church of the Nazarene remain the same throughout the denomination,” Phillips said. The translation of the *Manual* makes it possible for “a single denominational identity – who we are, what we believe, and how we function – to be accessible to church leaders in their native languages.”

Translators also need to be careful to use theological terminology in their own language that shares the meanings of the Wesleyan-Arminian-rooted theological terms used in English in the Church of the Nazarene, which was founded in the United States before expanding to 159 world areas.

“There are other theological traditions in the country (of Hungary), and it’s so easy to automatically use terminology that the Calvinists or Catholics might use, because it’s in the culture, but then it has a different connotation,” said Imre Gusztin, the literature coordinator for Hungary.

Getting together and discussing these different obstacles and challenges was helpful to the different language group representatives.

“We shared examples from the

Hungarian translation process that we thought were unique problems and others said, ‘Oh, we are struggling with the same thing. How did you solve it?’ It gives you ideas and opens up a new way of thinking about how to respond to it,” Imre said.

Scott Stargel, head of Global Nazarene Publications, led the summit. Since many of the participants are also involved with literature translation projects beyond the *Manual*, he provided training on the Nazarene literature translation process. He also introduced the group to the Wesleyan-Holiness Digital Library, a free, multilingual website that shares works related to Wesleyan-Holiness literature and scholarly research.

Finally, Stargel provided training for an open source software program used by professional translators called OmegaT. It learns terms and expressions from the translator, and remembers them when the translator encounters them again later in the translation process. It also has a spell check for most languages.

“We wish we had this years ago. I think this new software will ease the work,” Maria Gusztin said. □

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for Nazarenes and believers in the Eastern Mediterranean Field, that God would encourage them, unify them, and empower them for sharing the love of Jesus across the Middle East.
- Please pray for Kawshalya, the first woman in Sri Lanka to be ordained in the Church of the Nazarene. Ask God to provide her with everything she needs for His ministry, and pray for many more women to obey God’s call.
- Ask God to draw the church in the Eurasia Region into regular prayer and fasting, that we may humble ourselves before Him and seek His face.
- Ask God to lead Nazarenes across the region to give generously to global mission in the Easter offering.
- 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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