

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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Regional priority: Volunteerism

By Arthur Snijders
Eurasia Regional Director

In the third of four columns by the Eurasia Regional Director Arthur Snijders on the region's four priorities, he explains how being part of the church's mission through volunteerism is a "rare privilege," and requires sacrifice.

In the well-known book among the Chronicles of Narnia series, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, Prince Caspian and his ship finally reach the island from where they could sail to the end of the world. At this island the sailors become very afraid of what lies ahead. Who knows what lies ahead? Why is their prince taking them this way? They start to murmur and opposition grows. It begins to look as if the adventurous voyage will end in a deep disappointment and quarrels.

At that moment the prince calls his men together and says: "Men, you don't understand. It is not as if you don't of YOU can determine whether you will be part of the journey to the end of the world. It is only for the bravest and best among you. Only those of noblest character will be sought out to be part of this unheard adventure. They will be sung about in centuries to come as the heroes of the Dawn Treader."

Within a matter of minutes, the crew of sailors face the risk of being left out. That cannot be! All of a sudden none of them wanted to miss this risky journey. And they were fighting to get their names on the list of this special assignment crew.

In our region we want to see

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INDIA NYI COUNCIL CASTS VISION FOR FUTURE



Eurasia Region NYI leader Diego Lopez (back center) gathered the India NYI Field Council to train, discuss challenges and set vision for the future of youth ministry in India.

By Gina Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

Sixty-five percent of the population of India are within the age group of Nazarene Youth International (NYI), the youth ministry of the Church of the Nazarene denomination. It goes without saying that the church in India has a historic opportunity for ministering to youth through NYI, and raising up a new generation of young Christian leaders in a culture where another religion is pervasive in the dominant culture, and at times and in some places, Christian youth may face discrimination or persecution.

To kick-off a year-long emphasis on NYI in the India Field, in early May,

Diego Lopez, the new NYI Eurasia Region leader, met with the India Field's NYI council in Nagpur, India. Eleven of the 14 council members were represented and gave their reports.

"Everyone went with the feeling that I will lead my youth on the path of Jesus Christ." - Vijay Bhalerao

The objective of the meetings was for Lopez to learn how NYI functions in India, the field council's goals and vision, as well as challenges they are working

to overcome. He also sought to share a vision for the youth of India to become missionally involved in their communities and among youth who do not yet know Jesus Christ.

"Their vision is to grow," Lopez said. "They are very excited about being

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NAZARENES EVACUATE FROM MIDDLE EAST

Numerous Christian families from the Middle East are stranded after fleeing their homes for fear of being killed. About 160 individuals – including Nazarenes and others associated with the church – left certain areas where Christians are targeted and militants are taking over and occupying villages.

The families are now stranded in a transit country.

One single mother of two boys said fighters frequently lobbed shells into her neighborhood. At least one went through her roof, but her family survived.

A European country agreed to accept the families, but they are currently stuck in transit due to delays in the visa process. The delays have dramatically increased the costs of food and housing, so the Church of the Nazarene, through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, is working to raise the money needed to sustain these families until they can move on to safety.

Local Nazarene churches in the Middle East have helped persecuted families from other countries for years by providing children's education and other assistance, but the current crisis is too immense for them to meet alone.

"We are at a loss," a local pastor said. "The only thing we know to do is reach out to our Nazarene family around the world for help."

Another local Nazarene church leader said many family breadwinners have been without paid work for three years because of the scarcity of jobs in their hometowns. They spent their life savings trying to survive and have prayed for a way out for years.

"We feel like God has stretched His helping hand to them," the leader said. "They lived in areas where bombs are hitting, living like this for three years, but with no financial position [to] leave. ... Leaving for [another country] is a big miracle for them."

Once the families arrive in their host country, another organization has arranged for them to have support for one year as they become established in new communities.

"It is not easy to leave my country behind," said one of the women in transit, "but I have faith that God has opened this door, so I will walk through it." □

**About 160 individuals
– including Nazarenes
and others associated
with the church – left
certain areas where
Christians are targeted
and militants are taking
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How to Help

Pray

Pray for the families who are in transit, that they would make it safely to their destination. Pray for the families still living in places of violence. Pray for the churches in the Middle East as they seek to meet the needs of children and families who are living as refugees in their communities.

Give

Churches and individuals around the world can help persecuted families in the Middle East by giving to the Help for Persecuted Christians fund. Donations will be used to get families to safety and to meet other urgent needs.

To send donations by mail, use these instructions:

In Germany, send your donation to Helping Hands Germany:
Helping Hands e.V. - Gelnhausen, Germany
IBAN DE56 5075 0094 0000 022394
SWIFT-BIC HELADEF1GEL
MEMO: MID-EAST REFUGEES

For any other country in Eurasia, give through your local church or district, designating your gift to the Help for Persecuted Christians fund.

In the U.S., make checks payable to "General Treasurer" and send them to:
Global Treasury Services
Church of the Nazarene
P.O. Box 843116
Kansas City, MO 64184-3116
Be sure to put ACM1832 in the Memo area.

In Canada, make checks payable to "Church of the Nazarene Canada" and send them to:
Church of the Nazarene Canada
20 Regan Road, Unit 9
Brampton, Ontario L7A 1C3
Be sure to put ACM1832 in the Memo area.

Touched by Jesus

By
Gina Grate
Pottenger

"Jesus gave me life."

Sarah (not her real name) is a refugee from Syria who fled to another Middle Eastern country three years ago because of the war.

Five years ago, Sarah followed another religion. But because of widespread violence, war and hatred committed in the name of that religion, she began to experience confusion about her beliefs.

"God is not a killer, God is not bad," she says. "But in [that religion] God is so bad. Then I searched who God is. I searched in Buddhism, but I don't like the faith in Buddha. After that I became an atheist."

For the next two years Sarah floundered and her life without knowledge of a loving God became increasingly intolerable. Finally, she contemplated killing herself. She decided to pray to God, that if He existed, He would show her a reason to go on living.

After three days, she found a Bible that someone had given her six years before. Because she did not believe in the God of the Bible she had never opened it. Finding the book now, she opened it and began to read. She couldn't understand the meaning of what she read. But on the last page of the book, it said that anyone who wanted to follow Jesus should pray the prayer that was written there.

"I prayed this prayer. I feel comfort,

I feel relaxed. I like Jesus, because Jesus is not bad, Jesus is love."

Sarah sought out Christians to teach her more about Jesus and what it meant to follow Him, but the ones she met were nominal and knew nothing themselves. She visited some churches where the attenders worshipped icons and idols, which confused her further and she couldn't do likewise.

Then she met a genuine Christian preacher who began to disciple her and she experienced a gradual transformation as her faith matured.

Sarah began to pray and cry for her family, but she kept her new faith a secret. When it was nearly Easter, she begged Jesus to come to her home and touch her parents and siblings. Weeping for them, she fell asleep. She was awakened by the sensation of someone touching her shoulder and she knew it was Jesus.

On Easter Sunday morning, Sarah's mother came to her and said, "I saw Jesus." Her mother described seeing a man in bright white clothes. Then her mother described a vision of seeing Jesus touch Sarah's shoulder, just as she had experienced. She also described visions of Jesus touching Sarah's brother, and her sister who was in another country. Gradually, the entire family, except their father, began following Christ.

"One day my father had surgery for a pain in his chest," she said. "Before

the surgery, our church they came to our home and prayed for my father. In this time, my father felt hot in his body. After that, my father checked himself and he did not have pain. Now my father believes Jesus healed him, but he does not believe in Jesus. But yesterday he was in church with my mother."

When the war made things too dangerous, she didn't want to leave her home, but she asked Jesus if He wanted them to leave. She felt that He answered yes. So they packed some clothes and made the journey. In another country they found the Nazarene church and began attending. Two years ago, Sarah met the man who would become her husband; he serves bivocationally on the leadership team. Sarah serves alongside him.

"Jesus is my life," she says. "I don't breathe if there is not Jesus in my life. Jesus gave me new life. It's not easy, it's hard, but I learn things all the time."

She says that in Syria it is not allowed for Christians to preach about Jesus or talk about him. "But now many people – all people – they need to hear the message of salvation. They need, they need, they need. We need to move in people because people need Christ. The people are tired. They don't have love." □

INDIA: TAKING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

"A great time to be in India"

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missionaries and gathering together with other people. One of my impressions is very encouraged to see how well the NYI structure is working in most parts of India, from the local church to the district, to the field."

"Diego made it very lively for us," said Vijay Bhalerao, an NYI district representative to the field council. "Beginning we had a hearing from everyone of the participants on the question, 'Why are you in the youth ministry?' There were several interesting and encouraging answers. Diego also

gave some important demonstrations on understanding the persons. He also gave us a demonstration in groups of three on 'How does a leader look like?'"

The outcomes of the council meetings included:

- Plans for a centralized training to equip youth to host conferences locally
- Rethinking the field-level NYC, instead planning smaller, more frequent conferences in more localized settings
- Strategizing how to bring more youth to the Eurasia Region conference in October 2015, and for the NYI meetings afterward.

Other things they discussed were Bible quizzing, and how to implement it among youth; district camps; a leadership training program; a mission trip to Nepal; volunteering in short-term missions across the Eurasia Region through M-Power; connecting through social media and sharing their stories through communication efforts.

The NYI of India also raised 19,000 rupees for the wife and child of Biprose

Matter, the JESUS Film team member who died earlier this year by falling off a roof at a JESUS Film showing. Matter had been a long-time member of NYI in India.

Thangchinkhup Singson, an NYI district representative, said the value of the meeting for him was sharing his district NYI ministry with other district NYI leaders, and they also shared with him. "This encouraged and strengthened me," he said. "Knowing each others' situation in leading the youth gives more creative ideas to grow the younger generation in Christ."

"Over all, these two days were a great time of coming together as youth leaders and seriously think about the NYI work in each one of our districts to lead the youth," said Bhalerao. "It was also a great time of making friendship with each other and get to know each other. At the end we felt it was a very short time and it would have been great if we would have got more time of fellowship and sharing together. Everyone went with the feeling that I will lead my youth on the path of Jesus Christ." □

"Their vision is to grow. They are very excited about being missionaries and gathering together with other people."

-- Diego Lopez

M-POWER: A RARE PRIVILEGE

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volunteers from Eurasia volunteer for Eurasia. We call this M-Power, short for Mission-Power. Enabling younger and older people to become part for several months to more than a year of a real mission ministry somewhere in our region.

M-Power is our third regional priority. Out of interconnectedness and prayer & fasting, flows mobilisation through M-Power.

M-Power volunteers will have to sacrifice a lot to be able to serve in another culture, probably in another language. It will not be easy to raise sufficient money, and to have people back home commit to faithful support and prayer.

I can almost hear further questions and objections rise. Why this push for M-Power? Shouldn't we wait till we are stronger? Then this scene from Narnia starts to play through my mind. It is a rare privilege to be on board the M-Power ship. To see first hand what the Lord is doing in our region. People hear and respond to the gospel, become part of Christ at work in another place and culture.

But the ultimate call of the Spirit is this: how long, Eurasia, will you be primarily a receiving church? When will you embrace the movement towards a sending church? Will you let your Saviour show you what He wants you to give and share of His work among you with others?

While being realistic about the many practical questions that need to be answered, one may ask: What about school or retirement? What about the money? What about the language? What about the church ministry I leave behind?

I believe that the Lord is stirring people's hearts, inviting them to do more with their lives than they think is possible: serve the Kingdom of God in Jordan, India, Portugal or Moldova. Christ called, Peter and Andrew left their boats and nets to follow Him. Just like that! What a risk: their whole business! Would it still be there when they returned? But they got up and followed Jesus...seeing and hearing things that kings and prophets had been eager to witness for centuries. Christ opened it for

these men who were willing to get up and follow.

If you think that Eurasia Mission is something for you:

- Look up the M-Power website (www.eurasiaregion.org/volunteers).
- Talk with a spiritual friend, your pastor, and an M-Power taskforce representative about this opportunity. Don't forget the information on the M-Power website.
- Look up when the next Eurasia Mission Orientation will be organised in your area (the M-Power representative wants to help!).
- Start praying that the Lord will confirm through other people who will support you and pray.
- Look for ways of working for a year to save enough money to pay your way.
- Start reading about serving in other cultures. D. Elmer's book, *Cross-cultural Servanthood*, is an excellent start. The book, *Operation World*, gives you good information and prayer pointers about many countries in our Eurasia Region.

To the ends of the world! □

www.eurasiaregion.org/volunteers

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST EURASIA REGIONAL CONFERENCE 2015

31 OCTOBER - 4 NOVEMBER

PROFOUND PREACHING.

INVIGORATING WORKSHOPS.

RENEWING WORSHIP.

REVITALIZING FELLOWSHIP.

SPEAKERS



Rev V.K. Daniel
District Superintendent:
Sri Lanka



Verne Ward
Nazarene Global Mission
Director



Annemarie Snijders
M+Power Coordinator



Arthur Snijders
Eurasia Region Director



Sukamal Biswas
Field Strategy Coordinator:
South Asia



Khalil Halaseh
Field Strategy Coordinator:
Eastern Mediterranean



Daniel Fink
District Superintendent:
Italy



J.K. Warrick
General Superintendent

REGISTER SOON TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE. CONTACT YOUR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT OR FIELD STRATEGY COORDINATOR FOR MORE DETAILS.



2015 Eurasia Regional Conference

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCE DATES:

31 OCT — 4 Nov 2015

LOCATION:

Turkey

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Monday - Wednesday

11:45 - 13:00

Proposal Deadline

24 July, 2015

Submit proposals to:

syllocortez@gmail.com

**As we participate in God's redemptive work in the world,
we are called to do this together!**

The 2015 Eurasia Regional Conference would like to invite
workshop proposal submissions around this year's theme:

***Ambassadors for Christ -
Reconciling a Broken World!***
2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Our hope is that the daily workshops will inform, inspire,
encourage and energize the 600+ attendees during our time
together. Workshops will primarily be offered via 3 tracks:

**THEOLOGICAL REFLECTIONS ON RECONCILIATION
PERSONS & COMMUNITIES IN CONFLICT
MINISTRIES OF RECONCILIATION**

Proposals should address the following themes & questions:

- How can we be ministers of reconciliation in a broken world of differing ideologies and seemingly increasing intolerance?
- What is our Wesleyan response to critical issues and themes that intersect with our attempts to bring about reconciliation?
- What leadership challenges and practices should be examined in our attempts to reflect and give birth to reconciliation?
- What best practices might help us further God's kingdom and offer the message of reconciliation?

Further themes to work with in conjunction with reconciliation:

- Indigenous Holiness Theology & Practice
- Ministering Amidst Cultural Diversity
- Social Justice
- Restoration through Prayer & Fasting
- Practicing Forgiveness & Hospitality in a Hostile World
- Reconciliation with the Enemy

Ambassadors for Christ

Healing a broken world!

ALL WORKSHOP PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS will undergo a review and selection process. All proposals should include a presentation title and an abstract of 175-200 words or less, along with name, position, institutional and/or professional affiliation. Please submit proposals as an email attachment in Microsoft Word format by 24 July, 2015 to Sylvia Cortez at:
syllocortez@gmail.com

Final selections will be made by July 31, 2015

NTC GOVERNOR RUTH ROSS PASSES AWAY

Ruth Ross, Nazarene Theological College-Manchester (NTC) governor and secretary to the Board of Governors, as well as Treasurer at Parkhead Church of the Nazarene in Glasgow, passed away suddenly Monday, 29 June, while on holiday in California with her husband Chris.

Ruth is Karl and Ingrid Stanfield's sister (Brooklands Church, Manchester) and has many close connections to the college. Ruth has three children – Deborah, Matthew and Philip, and five grandchildren. Ruth has two brothers, Chris and Paul, and also her mum and dad, John and Vera Packard, are with the family in Manchester.

"The death of Ruth Ross has come as a great shock to all who knew her," said Philip McAlister, British Isles North District superintendent. "Over the years Ruth served on a number of boards and committees for the British Isles North District. Her lasting contribution to the

Kingdom will not be how much she did (and she did a lot) but the manner in which she performed each task. In each responsibility she exemplified the very essence of what it is to be a follower of Christ. Ruth was a tremendous supporter and encourager of those in leadership and always knew the right thing to say and do. She will be greatly missed. Our love and prayers are with her loving family and the pastoral team and congregation of Parkhead Nazarene."

Rev. Dr. Deirdre Brower Latz, NTC principal said: "We were deeply saddened to learn of Ruth Ross's untimely death. She was both a college governor and a good friend to so many of us. Godly and gifted, as a member of the Board of Governors she served as its secretary, a post which she held with distinction. She had sensitivity, passion for the college, was visionary and professional, and she was a vibrant contributor to our discussion and direction and will be greatly missed." □



ROMANIAN CHILDREN PRAY FOR NEPAL

To celebrate International Children's Day on June 1, a special activity was added to the Kids' Club program at Veritas – an NCM partner organization in Sighisoara, Romania. The children were shown pictures from Nepal – both before and after the earthquake in April. They learned about how the lives of people in Nepal – including children like themselves – have been affected by the earthquake.

Before the presentation, none of the children had heard about the earthquake, but afterwards, they were all touched by what they had seen and heard. The children then wrote prayers on pieces of paper and tied them to balloons that they released into the air as a way of symbolically showing how their prayers for the children in Nepal are being lifted to God. □



veritas.ro/about-us/

Do you have skills in writing, journalism, translation, videography or video editing? Would you like to be part of the regional communications team? Contact: communications@eurasiaregion.org



*The Lord is gracious
and compassionate,
slow to anger and rich
in love.
— Psalm 145:8 (NIV)*

www.eurasiaregion.org

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Search
"Church of the
Nazarene Eurasia"

Do you have a story from your church or district or other ministry in the Eurasia Region? Contact us at: communications@eurasiaregion.org. We would love to feature your pictures and stories in a newsletter of Snapshot.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the youth of India, and the India Field NYI Council, as they cast vision and develop strategy for the youth ministry of the Indian church in the coming months and years. Ask God to give them His direction, wisdom and to help them overcome obstacles and challenges.
- Please pray for the church in the Eurasia Region to embrace the opportunity to send its own missionaries across the region, to help our brothers and sisters advance the Kingdom in the diverse contexts and cultures of Eurasia.
- Please pray for the family of Ruth Ross, for the Parkhead Church of the Nazarene in the British Isles North District, and all those who are mourning the passing of Ruth. Ask God to bring them comfort and peace.
- Please pray for Sarah and her family, as they live out their faith in Jesus Christ in the midst of a culture of resistance and discrimination. Ask God to make them strong and courageous, and full of compassion.
- Christ commands us to pray for more workers for the harvest in Luke 10:2: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (NIV). Pray that God would raise up and equip new workers across the region.

Where Worlds Meet is the monthly newsletter for the Eurasia Region of the Church of the Nazarene. To subscribe, e-mail whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org or visit www.eurasiaregion.org.

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

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**Transforming Our World:
In Christ • Like Christ • For Christ**

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