



Ambassadors for Christ

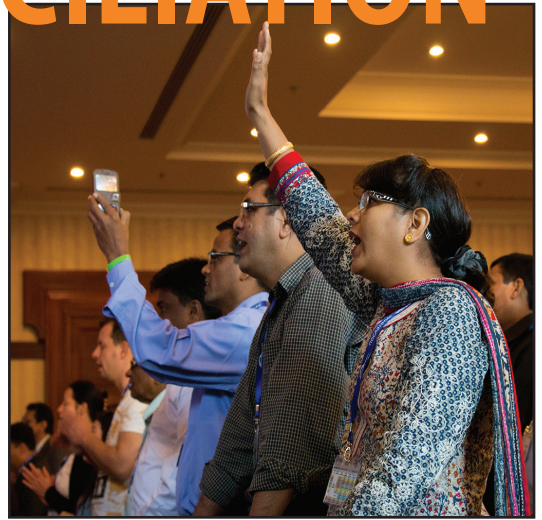
EURASIA 31 October - 4 November Regional Conference 2015

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

RECONCILIATION



Photo courtesy G. Pottenger



More than 600 Nazarenes from nearly 50 nations around Eurasia gathered for the quadrennial regional conference to worship, learn, dialogue, share, fellowship, and have fun together as they also tackled tough issues.

Reconciliation was the theme of the quadrennial Eurasia Regional Conference the first week of November, gathering 640 people from nearly 50 nations to celebrate God's presence and leading for the Church of the Nazarene amid recent years of economic difficulty, political tension, upheaval and civil war. The conference brought messages of hope to an era in the Eurasia Region in which many people have much to forgive, and will have much to forgive in the future.

During the opening service, Regional Director Arthur Snijders pointed out that forgiveness is costly, a transaction in which at least one party always pays. He explained that Jesus paid the ultimate price to reconcile Himself with humanity, demonstrating that forgiveness and reconciliation are not cheap.

The conference Scripture was taken from 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, which states, "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."

"We're first citizens of the kingdom of God and then we're residents of our country," said J.K. Warrick, general superintendent with jurisdiction over the Eurasia Region. "We must be free of prejudice and our bias."

Keynote speakers included leaders from each of Eurasia's seven fields. Maria Gustzin, a local pastor from Budapest, spoke about how her family was oppressed during the days of Communism. Yet, as refugees poured into her city this summer, she found herself in an unexpected position of power. She chose to put aside that power to sit with refugees on the dirty ground of the Keleti train station and listen to their stories.

"They got on the trains, and we wished them well, and they shouted, 'We hope you come to Syria so we can show you our beautiful country, because you welcomed us,'" she recalled. "Reconciliation means something more for me. It means not only forgiving my

oppressors, it means not doing the same to others when in a position of power. Reconciliation means not only forgiving and letting go, but understanding that anything less than loving the other is cruel."

Italy District Superintendent Daniel Fink described reconciliation as a future promised land. "We are still on this side of the river," he said. "There is work in progress. We are trying to detect and discern how to bring this world into God's new land."

He also pointed out that stories of reconciliation are rare in the Bible, because the Bible reflects life, and reconciliation is rare in life.

"When it happens, we should consider it a miracle."

Sarah Wise contributed to this story.

**Read more about the
conference inside.**

EC15: Celebration, grief, confronting issues

continued from page 1



Above: Phil Rawlings, director of the Manchester Centre for the Study of Christianity and Islam, leads a workshop on engaging people of other faiths. Top right: Sabine Wielk received the Timothy Award for her service to youth.

Eurasians proved they were not afraid to confront complicated – and sometimes ignored – issues, attending workshops featuring topics including “Sexual Offenders and the Church” and ministry to people with disabilities. In other workshops, participants discussed stories of reconciliation in the Middle East, focused on youth work, or engaged in personal and spiritual development.

Indigenous holiness and theology was a stream running through the conference, as a theology day kicked off the activities, featuring a number of regional theologians presenting papers on different aspects of reconciliation. Theological topics were also included in the daily workshops, such as reflections on youth ministry, and holding together the distinct Christian message while positively engaging with adherents of other faiths.



There were moments of celebration and recognition. The Eurasia Region Education Council presented Dr. Kent Brower, vice principal of NTC, with the Dr. Hugh Rae Award for a lifetime of service to higher education on the region (photo right). The award is named for the late Rev. Dr. Hugh Rae, a former principal of NTC, and is given once in a quadrennium to a lifetime educator on the region.

Rev. Sabine Wielk, who stepped down last year as leader of Nazarene Youth International (NYI) on the region, was given the Timothy Award, recognizing 14 years of service to the region’s youth.

“She has enabled a number of young people into leadership and has kept in contact over the years with them,” said Diego Lopez, to whom she handed over her role. “She has been a spiritual mother to many.”

And there were moments of mourning. Rev. Selvaraj Jayakumar, pastor and superintendent of the India Tamil Nadu West District, passed away suddenly in India, after delaying his departure to the conference. His son, Kingsley Jayakumar, a local pastor and India NYI coordinator, immediately returned home to be with his family.



Dr. Kent Brower was recognized with the Dr. Hugh Rae Award for a lifetime of service to higher education on the region.

TOGETHER: Eurasians found encouragement

continued from page 2

At the close of a difficult and sometimes dark year for many parts of the Eurasia Region, coming together brought inspiration and joy to many of the participants.

“First of all I love the fact that we get to meet people from different areas and hear from them what Christ is doing there,” said Selim Kolgeci, a local pastor in Kosova. “I get so very encouraged, and then I go back home to my home church and tell them, and they get encouraged as well.”

“There’s so much going on really close to where we live in our field and we don’t know anything about it,” said Sarah Montgomery, from the United Kingdom who now ministers in Poland. “It’s been so encouraging to hear from lots of different cultures. Being in Poland, we think the way the problems we have we’re alone. But actually, we’re not.”

“I get so very encouraged, and then I go back home to my home church and tell them and they get encouraged as well.”

-- Selim Kolgeci, Kosova

It was the first time to ever travel outside India for Partina Pawar, the NYI president of the Central India District.

“I got to meet so many different people from many different countries. We couldn’t speak the same language, [but] we could still understand each other through God.”

A team from Nazarene Theological College-Manchester (NTC) and several churches in the UK came to lead ministry among the 40 children aged 18 months to 14 years. The children enjoyed games on the beach, crafts such as painting on T-shirts, sports, field trips and playing their own movies at the hotel cinema.

“What a privilege to meet so many amazing children and young people representative of so many cultures and countries from our region,” said Louise Kenyon, lecturer and coordinator of the Youth Work and Ministry course at NTC.



“God’s love is more contagious than the evil of this world.”
-- J.K. Warrick, Nazarene general superintendent



Photo courtesy G. Pottenger

EURASIANS: Discussions, youth night, more

continued from page 3



The convergence of people from across the region also made it possible for the very first meeting of a new region-wide committee on the growing refugee crisis. The group was made up of Nazarenes from each of the region's nations where significant numbers of Middle East refugees have been displaced, are in transit, or are in the process of settling.

The group wrestled with the complicated questions, the fears, the unknowns of watching their governments make hurried plans to accept and settle large numbers of people on the move. They also discussed ideas for how to better coordinate their grassroots activities at all the points where they could intersect with refugees.

Following the conference, many stayed to participate in two days of meetings for Nazarene Youth International, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, regional educators, and district superintendent training.

The youth concluded the conference with their own mini-gathering, including a talent show, games, and many staying up all night talking before catching their early morning flights home, simply because they did not want to say goodbye to their new friends from other countries.

"We've started to make deep connections, and hopefully in the future we'll make connections with those countries to glorify God," said Sumeet Gawali, a member of NYI from Mumbai, India.

The Eurasians returned home to be ambassadors for Christ in their cultures. □



Photo courtesy G.Pottenger

COMING SOON:
Look for links to the field videos shown at the conference, along with MP3 recordings of all 8 keynote speakers.
www.eurasiaregion.org
www.facebook.com/eurasiaregion

Eurasians face terror with hope

Nazarene worship services in Paris and across France proceeded as normal Sunday, two days after the 13 November terrorist attacks across the city. The congregations prayed “for the wounded, families suffering the loss of loved ones, and the solidarity of the country,” said Bruce McKellips, field strategy coordinator for the Western Mediterranean Field, of which France is a part.

No Nazarenes were hurt in the attacks.

Missionary Brian Ketchum, based just outside Paris, wrote on Facebook: “Our hearts are heavy today after the senseless acts of violence and the destruction of innocent lives in Paris. We pray for all those suffering today. In the face of this horrific event, may we remain faithful to the message of hope in Christ. It would be easier to respond and react out of fear and hatred, but the message of Christ calls us to love, to forgive, to believe that Christ desires all to come to the saving knowledge of Him as Lord and savior. We pray that our lives would be a living testimony of the message and person of Christ. May the God of peace grant us all peace.”

There are three Nazarene churches in Paris and a total of eight organized churches in France, as well as two mission starts.

The day prior, 12 November, two suicide bomb attacks killed 40 people and injured almost 200 people in Beirut, Lebanon, where the denomination has four Nazarene churches, a school which has enrolled more than 200 children, and a theological college. No Nazarenes were reported hurt in the attacks.

“It was definitely a time of panic, the schools closed the second day, and you can imagine how difficult to answer the ‘why’ questions of your kids, especially when they see the terrible images ... on TV,” said Rev. Ayman Kafrouny, pastor of the Nazarene church in Bouchrieh, Beirut. “But in the midst of all this chaos we believe that this is a golden time for the church to work. People start realising that they need a miracle and nobody can do it except God. With all their questions about where is He in all of that, the Church has to be shining in this darkness and be ready to give

the answers about God’s goodness and the necessity of repentance from the people’s side.”

In spite of the attacks, the Bouchrieh church held its fifth baptism in several months on 14 November, and seven more believers are planning to be baptized soon.

The Eurasia Region was rocked by other incidents this fall.

Terrorism is now blamed for a 31 October crash of a Russian airliner, departing Egypt, killing all 224 passengers on board.

Violence and civil war also continue to rage across Iraq and Syria, from which millions of refugees are streaming into neighboring countries and Europe.

“We are shocked about these attacks,” said Arthur Snijders, Eurasia Region director. “And our prayers go to those who have lost loved ones. Besides the tragedies of the refugees that have come to our doorstep, now we have the violence coming to our cities. We have Nazarenes in all the places we see on the news: whether it is Paris or Lebanon. We pray that the Lord will restrain these powers. But we also pray that we will live and minister in hope through Christ.”

The terrorist acts come just a week after the first meeting of a developing Eurasia Region refugee council, with representatives from many countries in the region where refugees are now present in large numbers. The

diverse group of missionaries, local church pastors, international and local Nazarene Compassionate Ministry leaders, field strategy coordinators, volunteers, and many others gathered to discuss and coordinate the Church of the Nazarene’s response to the refugee crisis across the region.

The group somberly acknowledged the reality that among the hundreds of thousands who are fleeing violence and war, there will also be those with the secret intent of bringing violence to new places.

Despite the challenges, Nazarenes from the Middle East have words of encouragement as the Church engages with the refugees.

“The harvest is plentiful,” said Kafrouny, whose country is now home to more than 2 million refugees. “All we need is the support of the saints around the world to pray with us to the Lord to send or raise up workers in His fields. We need people, like the Philippian church, to think of us here and send their support for the work of the kingdom to be done because it’s far beyond our capacity.” □

If you would like to download a zip file with images to create PowerPoint prayer slides for Paris and Beirut to use in your congregational prayer time, visit: <http://www.eurasiaregion.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Paris-and-Beirut-prayer-slideshow.zip>



Photo courtesy Nazarene Church Bouchrieh

In spite of the attacks, the Bouchrieh church, Beirut, Lebanon, held its fifth baptism in several months on 14 November, and seven more believers are planning to be baptized soon.

Bangladesh NYI holds discipleship camp



Photo courtesy Bangladesh NYI

More than 100 new members of Nazarene Youth International in the North District of Bangladesh gathered for a one-day discipleship camp in October. The group prayed, worshipped, listened to preaching and participated in Bible quizzes.

By Bangladesh NYI

North District is a fast growing district in Bangladesh. This district has split into seven sub areas and every sub area has a leader and administrative team. This is called “area planning team.” They work under the district advisory board. One sub area has 300 churches.

In October, 63 local churches of NYI, along with Nazarene Youth International (NYI) leaders and the district superintendent, took the initiative to organize a one-day camp with 100 new NYI members for encouraging them to grow as disciples of Christ.

The event was designed with worship, preaching and a Bible quiz. Rev. Dilip preached on the “Christian life” and Rev. Subash preached on the main theme of NYI: “Don’t let anyone look down on you...and in purity,” Timothy 4:12.

It’s remarkable what God can do in a young person’s life over the course of the event. Their entire lives encounter the real presence of Christ through the event. Before the close, young people were crying, praying and surrendering their lives to Christ. They gave their testimony and shared God’s love, which encouraged others. The camp made the bridge with Christ, which helped them make a commitment with Christ. With that commitment in place, they are now looking outward to attract, equip and empower young people for service in the kingdom of God and to facilitate their integration into the Church of the

Nazarene.

Saborin (17) is a college student. She had never attended the NYI group in her church; she was not even consistent in regular worship attendance. She was far behind in her personal devotional life with Christ. After attending this event, she found out for herself that she was not growing or maturing in her relationship with God. She committed herself to maintaining a devotional life with Christ. She also committed herself to serve the young people in the church and bring them to Christ.

The district superintendent says, “Youth are strength and power in our church and they are the future leader in the ministry. I want to give them

full space in the church so that youth can equip others for extending His Kingdom.”



India district superintendent passes away

Selvaraj Jayakumar, a pastor and superintendent of the India Tamil Nadu West District, passed away suddenly on 2 November.

Jayakumar pastored the Musiri Church of the Nazarene for 31 years, beginning in 1984. He served as the district superintendent of India Tamil Nadu West from his appointment in 1994 until his passing. Additional ministerial roles included two years as pastor at Velur Church of the Nazarene (1980-1982), serving as the district superintendent of India Tamil Nadu East from 2003 to 2005, and helping as the assistant field strategy

coordinator for South India for four years.

Jayakumar is survived by his wife, Chandra Meeha; two daughters, Gethsy, an ordained elder, and Neeta Sweety; and son Kingsley, pastor at Musiri, as well as the India Nazarene Youth International field youth coordinator.

A funeral service was held 3 November.

Prayer is requested for the Jayakumar and India Tamil Nadu West District families.



New regional website now online

The Eurasia Region has completed the first phase of its new, English language regional website. At the address, www.eurasiaregion.org, you can find out more about the Church of the Nazarene in the fields of Eurasia, our values and priorities, the ministries that are active here,

read the latest news and watch video stories, sign up for the *Where Worlds Meet* monthly newsletter, and find out ways you can get involved.

We will be adding more pages and information in the future.

Be sure to visit often, and also follow us on Facebook by searching

“Church of the Nazarene Eurasia.”

Send us your feedback and ideas for how to improve our site to serve you better: email to communications@eurasiaregion.org.

www.eurasiaregion.org

Eurasia Region
Church of the Nazarene

HOME WHO WE ARE FIELDS MINISTRIES NEWS GET INVOLVED CONTACT

Refugee crisis in Europe

You can help!

An Impression of Eurasia

2.443 BILLION PEOPLE

EURASIA Region

One of six Global Mission regions in the Church of the Nazarene denomination, Eurasia encompasses 93 sovereign nations or distinct areas across Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, North Africa, and the CIS. This highly diverse region, home of major religions such as Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Christianity, provides great challenges in presenting the clear message of Christ in our Wesleyan Holiness Christian tradition.

From the first mission field in the Church of the Nazarene, India, begun in 1898, to the newest fields in Moldova and Norway, we offer medical services, food and clothing for the economically disadvantaged, relief for refugees from wars and ethnic cleansing as well as natural disasters, education at all levels, and spiritual nurturing through the work of more than 8,000 local churches.

The ministry is holistic, meeting people's physical and emotional needs so they will be receptive to hearing the ultimate answer to life's demands, Jesus Christ.

Find out how you can personally be involved in supporting the transformative ministry in the Eurasia Region, and to learn about the exciting things God is doing here!

Transforming our world... In Christ, Like Christ, For Christ.



WE ARE DEBTORS
to every man
 TO GIVE HIM THE GOSPEL
in the same measure
 IN WHICH WE HAVE
 RECEIVED IT.

Phineas F. Bresee

THANK OFFERING FOR THE WORLD EVANGELISM FUND



Global thank offering 22 November

“Developing the Future” is the theme of the 2015 Thanksgiving, or Thank, Offering. As we remember the Lord’s unfailing love, the psalmist calls on us to “sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy” (Psalm 107:22). We join you in prayer and preparation for this annual emphasis in the Church of the Nazarene. Through this offering given to the World Evangelism Fund, we do more together than we ever could alone. God receives our humble gifts and uses our generosity to accomplish amazing things — in language schools, church plants, mission hospitals, and many other ministries.

Every time we choose to serve God by giving back, we become a part of God’s future — a future that spreads into eternity as people around the world come to a saving knowledge of Christ. The 2015 offering celebrates how our gifts

help spread the gospel, both now and in the future.

In Psalm 22, the writer praises God and calls on all people to worship the Lord. He declares that the greatness of God will be obvious because of what God will do. Through the World Evangelism Fund, the Church of the Nazarene is able to share His greatness and goodness with people everywhere.

Praise God for how He has used our gifts in the last year:

- 702 missionaries and 310 missionary kids were deployed from 35 world areas.
- 378 people joined the Church of the Nazarene every day. That is 16 people per hour!
- 143,870 students were enrolled in Nazarene preschool, primary, and secondary schools.

Let’s reflect on the many ways in which God has blessed us, and imagine what God will do through our generation and those that follow as we continue to serve Him.

The offering will be received on 11 October 2015 in Canada and 22 November 2015 globally. (Please note that not all areas will receive the offering on these dates, depending on the calendar of each field or district.)

Resources will be available at nazarene.org/generosity in English, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and Korean. If you have questions, contact Stewardship Ministries at stewardship@nazarene.org.

Yours in Christ,

The Board of General Superintendents

LIVING IN EUROPE OR ASIA?

www.eurasiaregion.org/volunteers

The world is looking for you! Be a volunteer in the Eurasia Region (Europe and Asia) of the Church of the Nazarene and help in God's Kingdom.

*“The LORD is good,
A stronghold in the
day of trouble, And
He knows those who
take refuge in Him.”
- Nahum 1:7*

Do you have pictures of your church ministry in Eurasia that you would like to share with the region? Send them to communications@eurasiaregion.org and we'll consider posting them on our Facebook page.

www.eurasiaregion.org

Tips for helping refugees

As a tidal wave of people moving from the Middle East engulfs Europe, many Nazarenes are asking how they and their local churches can practice hospitality by effectively ministering to the complex needs of these relocating people.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) has provided a booklet with a wide range of ideas for how local churches can organize to meet numerous practical needs of immigrants, from low-investment to medium-and high-investment involvement.

Some tips include giving immigrants an orientation tour of the new city where they find themselves; offering language classes; or providing safe spaces for displaced people to visit during daytime hours.

The booklet also describes ways to be culturally sensitive to the religious and gender differences of people coming from the Middle East, as well as the particular needs of those fleeing war zones and traumatic experiences.

The booklet urges churches to involve

a refugee or asylum seeker from the community to identify needs and plan the church's response.

To access this booklet, visit <http://www.eurasiaregion.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Responding-to-Refugee-Crisis-version-4.9.15.docx>

Feel free to circulate it within your local churches and districts.

To give to the work of NCM and local churches who are serving Middle East refugees across the Eurasia Region, visit <http://www.ncm.org/refugees.html>. □



Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the millions of people displaced by war and violence in the Middle East. Pray for the Church around the world as it seeks the most effective ways to show God's love to these people, and for governments and nations as they make decisions regarding the refugees.
- Please pray for Paris, Beirut, Baghdad and the many other places around the region and the world where people are suffering from political and religious violence. Ask the sovereign God of peace to bring peace, justice, forgiveness and reconciliation. Also, ask Him to empower the Church to embody the message of Christ's hope and love in these places.
- Pray for the youth of Bangladesh as they intentionally pursue maturity and growth in their relationships with Jesus Christ. Ask Him to send them out as emissaries to their families and communities.
- Pray for the family of Rev. Jayakumar, as well as his church and district, as they mourn his sudden passing.

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

Gina Pottenger, Comm. Coordinator
gpottenger@eurasiaregion.org
Randolf Wolst, Website Designer
rwolst@eurasiaregion.org
Arthur Snijders, Regional Director
awnsnijders@eurasiaregion.org

facebook

vimeo

twitter



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

Eurasia Regional Office • Postfach 1217 • 8207 Schaffhausen, Switzerland
Phone (+49) 7734 93050 • Fax (+49) 7734 930550 • E-mail whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org