

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

YEAR 12, ISSUE 12 • DECEMBER 2015

BANGLADESH SANBC GRADUATION



More than 80 women and men graduated from South Asia Nazarene Bible College in Bangladesh in October.

By Bangladesh Communications

“Graduation helps me to outreach [the] gospel more spontaneously and appropriately to other faith people,” said Pastor Topon*, who graduated with the Diploma of Pastoral Ministry from South Asia Nazarene Bible College (SANBC) in Dhaka, Bangladesh 10 October. He was speaking in a ceremony in which 86 women and men graduated.

The program’s theme was, “Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding,” (Jeremiah 3:15).

Rev. Simon M., the national coordinator of SANBC-Bangladesh, said candidates of the graduation will be ordained next year during district assembly and will gain licenses for pastoral work. Graduates study for three years in theology and pastoral ministry, and also receive training in holistic, compassionate ministries that include disaster relief.

A number of education leaders were present at the graduation, including Rev. Simon Jothi, principal, SANBC; Rev. John Haines, Eurasia Region education coordinator; Dr. Kent Brower, chairman

of International Board of Education (IBOE) for the denomination; Dr. Dan Copp, education commissioner, IBOE; Rev. Nathan, field strategy coordinator for South Asia Field; Rev. Prakash Nemade, vice principal, SANBC; Dr. Winnie Nhlengethwa, vice-chancellor, South Africa Nazarene University; Dr. Bob Brower, president of Point Loma Nazarene University (USA). Bangladesh’s three district superintendents, and Dr. Franklin Cook, emeritus Eurasia Region director, were also present.

“A great thing usually starts from smalls,” said Cook, speaking from Luke 8:4-15, the Parable of the Sower, set within the context of the start of Church of the Nazarene in Bangladesh. He remembered the small beginnings well from his time leading the region from 1989 to 2004. Twenty-two years ago he had visited the country and met Rev. Nathan and Mr. Vanu, who showed interest in helping to register the denomination with the government.

That seed which they had planted two decades ago led to this very graduation

Focus: Indigenous holiness theology and practice

One of the Eurasia Region’s four priorities is “indigenous holiness theology and practice.” This edition of *Where Worlds Meet* is full of news in that regard. So we celebrate and share with you how Nazarenes in Eurasia are engaged in higher education, literature and translation, and field-driven refugee response.

Region-wide, coordinated refugee response developing

By Teanna Sunberg
Eurasia Region Communications

As the Middle East refugee situation continues to be a significant consideration on the Eurasia Region, international and regional leaders for Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) met with representatives from the Eastern Mediterranean, Central Europe, and Northern Europe fields in early December. The meetings were held in Budapest in various forms, including Skype and face-to-face discussions. The objective was to develop a coordinated strategy for engaging refugees as they exit their origin countries and settle in other parts of the Eastern Mediterranean Field or transit through the Balkans to settle in destination countries across Central and Northern Europe.

Strategies being developed include an effort to create a consistent identity for Nazarene

SANBC: Graduates to be ordained at assemblies

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Photo courtesy Bangladesh Communications

More than a dozen women were among the graduates. Below left: Diploma presented by Dr. Dan Copp, education commissioner for the Church of the Nazarene's International Board of Education. Below right: Keynote address from Dr. Franklin Cook, Eurasia Regional director emeritus.



ceremony, he said, urging them not to worry for any matters because God will protect them. But, for those who don't obey God, don't listen His commands, there is something to be worried. He only calls His followers to plant the seeds and God will make them grow, just as Cook obeyed God by visiting Bangladesh all those years ago, planting the seeds, from which God has given a good result.

Mrs Tania, a graduate, says, "I am very much grateful to the Lord and the Church of the Nazarene in Bangladesh for giving wonderful opportunity for studying [with] SANBC. I have learnt so many things from the Bible which I will

apply in my life and help to apply others for serving and preparing them for HIS kingdom."

Pastor Samual, another graduate, says, "I am very happy to receive graduation because I learnt a lot and now I am able to preach God's Message more correctly and actively. I will work for Christ my entire life. I thank SANBC for this opportunity to gain graduation." □

**Full names not used for security reasons.*

"Now I am able to preach God's message more correctly and actively. I will work for Christ my entire life."

-- Pastor Samual

Page 6: Exciting developments with SANBC

How to respond

Learn

Word Action, an imprint of Nazarene Publishing House, developed two free small group lessons that wrestle with the church's response to refugees. These lessons can help church members lead groups in an engaging discussion and explore how faith intersects life in meaningful ways.

To download a small group lesson for adults, visit: <http://bit.ly/1Og55Ku>. For a lesson geared toward youth, visit: <http://bit.ly/1m8AFDk>.

Give

Churches and individuals around the world can support efforts to minister to refugee families through local Nazarene churches by giving to the NCM Refugee and Immigrant Support Fund.

In Germany, please donate through Helping Hands e.V., IBAN: DE56 5075 0094 0000 022394, SWIFT-BIC: HELADEF1GEL.

For other countries, please give through your local church or district, designating your gift to the NCM Refugee and Immigrant Support Fund. □

REFUGEE: Setting groundwork

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workers across the three fields. As volunteers serve in various locations across the journey, there is an intentional effort to be a safe, dependable and compassionate presence identifiable as NCM.

Each field is looking at avenues of compassion and opportunities to offer intentional relationship. It is understood that the changes wrought by such a significant influx of people require all cultures to make room, to be flexible, and to learn from one another.

An initial outcome of the refugee response meetings was to agree on terminology going forward. For instance, to no longer negatively refer to the current events as a "crisis." Rather, in recognizing that God is sovereignly guiding what is a *kairos* (Greek for "right" or "opportune") moment for the Church, it is better described as a "refugee situation" or

"event." Additionally, some fields, such as Central Europe Field, are comprised of both transit and destination countries, therefore, references to the refugee exodus are distinguished by categories of origin country, transit country, and destination country.

While three fields were represented in the current meeting, the refugee exodus, transit, and resettlement includes countries from additional Nazarene fields, which are being considered in the strategy.

Global Nazarenes have been generous with giving toward the refugee response and meetings are taking place this week between Arthur Snijders, Eurasia Regional director, and Joerg Eich, Eurasia NCM coordinator, to review the developed strategy and determine the financial picture.

This meeting was only the beginning of an intended, developing region-wide refugee response strategy. □

Portuguese translation explains where, how we fit

There was excitement and joy at the recent district assembly in Portugal when the newly published Portuguese translation of *Here We Stand: Where Nazarenes Fit in the Religious Marketplace*, by Wes Tracy and Stan Ingersol, was introduced and launched as a new resource for the Church of the Nazarene in Portugal and around the world. The Portuguese title is, *Estamos Aqui: Onde os Nazarenos se encaixam no panorama religioso*.

This is a wonderful achievement of the Portuguese Literature Committee, the Western Mediterranean Field and the Eurasia Region, and we congratulate Raquel Pereira and her team on the completion of a great and very much needed book. Thank you!

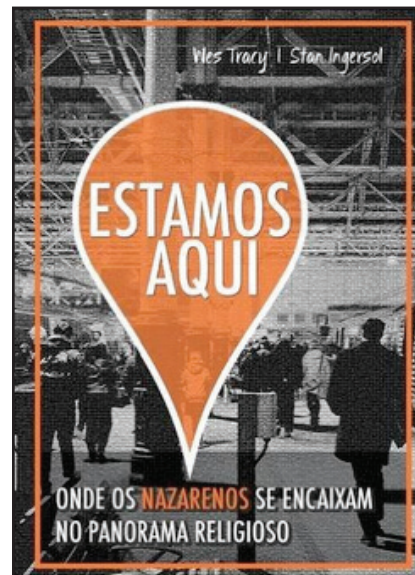
A very special "thank you" also to Scott Stargel, from Global Nazarene Publications, for his many efforts in helping to make this book a reality.

May it be a blessing for the ministry and the Kingdom.

--- Nikolaj Sawatzky, Eurasia Region literature coordinator.



Raquel Pereira, leader of the region's Portuguese translation committee, presents the book to the Portugal District Assembly.



***Estamos Aqui: Onde os Nazarenos se encaixam no panorama religioso* is available on Amazon. Search by the title or the code: 978-156344-805-8**

Region thanks Brower for lifetime contribution

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

He always thought he would return to the Canadian dairy farm where he grew up and be a farmer.

Dr. Kent Brower, vice principal of Nazarene Theological College-Manchester (NTC), and chairman of the Church of the Nazarene denomination's International Board of Education, still loves the farm and the wide plains of Canada. But while working on his master's degree in the 1970s, he found he loved something else, too: the process of academic theological study in community that helps to shape people in their holistic development and participation in God's mission.

He went on to complete his PhD at the University of Manchester under Professor F F Bruce while teaching and serving as bursar and dean of students at NTC (then known as BINC). Then, in 1979, he returned to Canada to teach biblical studies at Canadian Nazarene College, Winnipeg (now Ambrose University, Calgary). In 1988, he came back to NTC to be academic dean. In 2004, he was named vice principal.



His wide-ranging service to education in the

Eurasia Region – and beyond – was recognized at the Eurasia Regional Conference in November when he was presented with the Dr. Hugh Rae Award for lifetime achievement in education.

The award is given once every four years, celebrating “the faithful lives of those who have given themselves sacrificially to their students and their service in education,” said John Haines,

Eurasia Region education coordinator.

“It’s lovely to have affirmation from my colleagues with whom I’ve worked for a long time on the region,” Brower said. “It’s really important to celebrate the importance of education in the life of the church. Education isn’t seen as something additional, but an integral

see “BROWER” • page 5

Contributions

NTC-Manchester

Dean of students for 14 years, during which time enrollment increased from 50 to 250.

Vice principal since 2004.

Helped college to earn British accreditation.

Helped pioneer NTC's affiliation with University of Manchester, through which NTC now awards its degrees.

Supervised a dozen PhD students to completion.

Globally

One-time pro vice chancellor for academics and advisor South Africa Nazarene University.

Led NTC-Manchester to support faculty development at South Asia Nazarene Bible College and Eastern Mediterranean Nazarene Bible College.

Developed relationship between NTC-Manchester and Nazarene Theological College- South Africa, through the Manchester MA programme in assisting with faculty development.

Chair of International Board of Education for Church of the Nazarene denomination since 2009.

Taught in 10 countries outside the UK.



While Brower has been vice principal, Nazarene Theological College developed a Master of Arts in Theology for South Asia Nazarene Bible College, which serves hundreds of students in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Brower: Wants to 'energize and empower others'

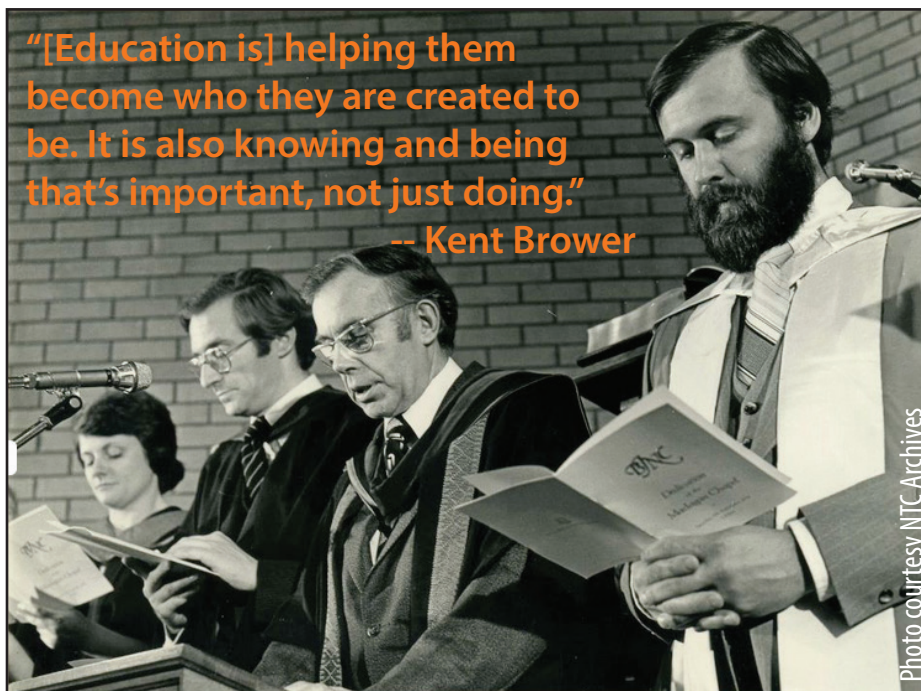
Quotables

Klaus Arnold, rector of European Nazarene College: "Kent is a very 'worthy' recipient. There is hardly anyone on the region with this 'calibre' of scholarship and commitment to the development of young scholars all over our region."

Rev. Simon Jothi, principal of South Asia Nazarene Bible College: "Kent Brower is a very deserving candidate to receive this award.... Besides actively participating in our region, he also helped schools across our denomination and beyond. His vision is to help the world area to get quality, credible, Wesleyan higher education. As he always says: 'Everyone deserves higher education equally.'"

Peter Rae, academic dean of NTC-Manchester: "He is one of the church's foremost New Testament scholars. He's an administrator par excellence. He, more than anyone else I can think of, embodies all the values that you'd want in an educator in higher education in the church. I think I'd start with integrity; he's all about integrity. It's all about wanting to do things right. He has a global vision for the church. What he does is not all about NTC, but about the wider vision of the needs of the church."

Dan Copp, education commissioner, International Board of Education, Church of the Nazarene: "Dr. Brower is a worthy recipient of this outstanding award. His leadership as Chair for the International Board of Education and in many other responsibilities and relationships continues to provide a profound global influence on the development of Nazarene Higher Education. I consider it a privilege to partner with Dr. Brower in this important work." □



When Kent Brower (far right) served as bursar and dean of students at Nazarene Theological College while completing his PhD through University of Manchester, he led alongside Dr. Hugh Rae (second from right).

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part of how the Church is being the Church by looking after the development of people, both for mission but also developing them holistically.... It's helping them become who they are created to be. It is also knowing and being that's important, not just doing."

Because Brower cares about shaping people holistically, he wants to "energize and empower other people," said Peter Rae, academic dean of NTC-Manchester. "I feel like my own role in Christian higher education has been because of Kent's deliberate encouragement and mentoring and his inspiration....

That's been significant for me and for others. In my role as dean, he was my predecessor, and mentored me into this role and stepped aside to allow me to step into that."

That may be why Brower says that some of his most significant pleasures come through supervising PhD students: "It's been an unbelievable thing for me to see the quality of their work; it's been outstanding. I'm really proud of them."

Brower said he believes the purpose of theological education is to serve the

church.

"I learned from Dr. Hugh Rae, for whom this award is named, how important it was for faculty to be constantly and intimately engaged with the local congregation, because our thinking is related to what God is doing in His people, and if it isn't, it's simply a conceit – self-serving.

"I'm very keen to remember that in a place like ours, we face both ways: we face towards the academy and towards

"Our thinking is related to what God is doing in His people, and if it isn't, it's simply ... self-serving."

-- Kent Brower

the Church. We are engaged in both and we find the best of the academy to apply to the Church. We make sure the academy listens to the questions of the church in the process of education in the formation of people. Education matters."

"I treat a call very much as opportunity and how might I serve the people of God," he said, of his decision to choose academic leadership over life in agriculture. "I do think I've been doing the right thing and ... God's allowed me to have a place to use the gifts he's given me. It's where I've had a chance to flourish and I'm thankful for that." □

Districts increase lay enrollment in SANBC

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

In a suburb of Mumbai, on the western coast of India, Hamant Rajul Wala and his wife, both lay people, were instrumental in starting the church in their community. It is now a vibrant, growing congregation. The couple believed that taking the Nazarene course of study – which prepares ministers for ordination as clergy – through South Asia Nazarene Bible College (SANBC) would help them as they lead the local church. So they established an SANBC learning

center and went through the course. This year they both graduated.

Lay people, such as the Walas, represented 80 percent of the South Asia Nazarene

Bible College (SANBC) graduates from the Western Maharashtra District, India, this year, marking a major philosophical shift on that district regarding who may benefit from a theological education and ministry training, according to Simon Jothi, principal of SANBC.

Twenty-seven people from the district graduated at the recent district assembly.



Rev. Sanjay Gawali is the district superintendent for Western Maharashtra, India.

The lay members in the group were encouraged to enroll in SANBC by the district superintendent, Sanjay Gawali (photo below), and the district leadership team because they believe that engaged and trained lay people will be a key to the district's growth, Jothi said.

"He is placing education as a priority of the district's total mission."

Gawali had appointed an education coordinator for the district and started 11 learning centers to train leaders,

enrolling 80 students, 52 of whom have completed the first track oriented toward leadership. When he reported this at a leadership meeting in India, several

other district superintendents asked him how they could replicate his efforts.

"Not all have joined the ministry but we encouraged them to just complete the



Rev. Simon Jothi is principal of SANBC.

courses and when they feel that God is calling them for full-time ministry, they will join the second track," Gawali said.

He's noticed that among the lay people in the SANBC course, many are becoming more involved in their local

see "LAY PEOPLE" • page 7

From new believer, to student, to pastor

Abhay* found Jesus through Pastor Rabi* who was trained with SANBC and graduated in 2010. Rabi, who was from the same religious background as Abhay, found the theological training helped him to share Christ with people from his own traditional religion, including Abhay.

Rabi felt called to be a missionary to people like himself, and began first preaching in his own community where he met Abhay. When Abhay showed a curiosity toward the message of Christ, Rabi gave him a Bible in his language. Abhay began to read the Scripture and met with Rabi to ask questions. He then committed his life to following Jesus.

Immediately he met with opposition from his community when he told people about his decision. So, then he decided his first mission field ought to be his own family. He shared the story of Jesus with his wife and children, then his cousin. They decided to also follow Jesus, and due to the risk of opposition, the family was baptized secretly at midnight.

"They were living faithfully as Christians," said Simon Jothi, principal of SANBC, who had been told Abhay's story. "He also was moved by looking at the pastor and his wife, and began looking how to share the gospel to others. Then the pastor suggested him to join SANBC course of study."

Abhay enrolled as a student, and during his studies, he founded two new churches – which is part of the practical experience required for all students prior to graduation.

"He is interested in planting the church through [people of his traditional religion]," Jothi said. □

*Names changed for security

LAY PEOPLE: NYC prompts youth to enroll

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churches.

Due to the effective ministry of JESUS Film teams around the district, a number of church type missions have been started, and some of those will be officially organized churches soon. That's why there is a growing need for more pastors and leaders to be theologically educated – even housewives, Gawali said.

The district's pastors are also encouraged because of the support they are gaining from trained lay leaders in their congregations.

This graduation in Western Maharashtra is just one example of how SANBC is increasingly attracting lay people across the five countries where the institution has learning centers and students, in addition to pastors and those recognizing a call to full-time ministry, Jothi said.

SANBC has learning centers in India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The school's design as a decentralized institution, which offers intensive courses on weekends or for short periods, works well for many people who are employed full-time and have families or other ongoing demands on their time.

"They see SANBC as the perfect match because they are business people or people who work in (Nazarene Compassionate Ministries) child development centers, government teachers, housewives," Jothi said. □

Nazarenes earn MAs by extension

By Rev. Rajiv Yangad
Special to Eurasia Region Communications

There was a great shout, "yea, yea, yea, yea, and yea" by the Nazarene crowd as Rev. Sanjay Singh announced the name Mrs. Shradha Nitin Saraf, who walked to the presenter and received her Masters of Divinity Degree, memento and gift. The cheers were repeated each time a Nazarene person received their certificate.

The convocation ceremony was held 28 November 2015, by the extension studies department of Union Biblical Seminary (UBS), Pune, India, on the campus of UBS, Pune. Rev. Saraf is a co pastor of Chikhli Nazarene Church. Rev. Suraj Ravindra Dhanvajir, a pastor of Khamgaon Nazarene Church, also received a Master's of Divinity. Mrs. Varsha Suhas Rayarum of Matru Nazarene Church Buldana received her Bachelor of Theology. All three are from the Central Maharashtra District.



Rev. V.K. Daniel is district superintendent of Sri Lanka.



Neegam Fernando is education coordinator of Sri Lanka.

NYC attracts youth to SANBC

A year ago, Bangladesh had three learning centers – one for each of its three districts. Now there are five centers.

One congregation has so many youth who are getting involved in ministry and became interested in studying theology after attending the recent Nazarene Youth Convention (NYC) in Bangladesh that it is looking at starting a learning center in the church.


A similar phenomenon occurred in Sri Lanka after the NYC there in 2013, Jothi said.

"Some of the young people who gave their life to the call to ministry, about 50 of them gave their life, ... and then a few months later I was there [teaching] and I was surprised to see some of those people sitting in the class"

The district superintendent, Rev. V.K. Daniel, had intentionally connected the NYC to local churches, asking the pastors to mentor the youth who had committed their lives to ministry, and to help them enroll in SANBC.

Currently a total of 13 young women and 18 young men are enrolled in SANBC in Sri Lanka.

Neegam Fernando, a young man who graduated from SANBC last year, is now the national education coordinator for Sri Lanka. □



CONVOCATION


Praise God with us for their success



Rev. Mrs. Shradha Saraf
M.Div.



Rev. Suraj Dhanvajir
M.Div.



Mrs. Varsha Rayarum
B.Th.

UNION BIBLICAL SEMINARY, PUNE
28th November 2015, 10:30am

From the Western Maharashtra District, Rev. Gavit Ravi Ukhdyia received a Bachelor of Theology, and Rev. Chaudhari Gulabbhai received a Master's of Divinity. □

Watch and listen to Regional Conference videos and sermons

The audio files of the keynote speakers from each service will be posted on www.eurasiaregion.org very soon. Check often or watch our Facebook page for links: www.Facebook.com/eurasiaregion



Did you miss the regional conference but still want to see and hear what God did amongst our church there? Maybe you participated, but want to listen to a sermon again, or share some of the videos you saw with friends or your local church?

We are publishing the videos that were featured in each service on the Eurasia Region website: www.eurasiaregion.org. Visit the "field" pages to watch the following videos that we've released:

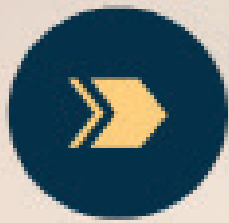
- Central Europe Field
- Eastern Mediterranean Field
- South Asia Field
- CIS Field (Commonwealth of Independent States)

Or visit our Eurasia Region Vimeo page to download the videos in different file sizes:

- Central Europe: <https://vimeo.com/146630648>
- Eastern Mediterranean: <https://vimeo.com/146628210>
- South Asia: <https://vimeo.com/147439279>
- CIS Field: <https://vimeo.com/148308140>

More videos from the remaining fields are coming soon. Check back to find them!





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'Christmas Bells'

By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, on the occasion of personal tragedy and loss during the American Civil War, 1863.

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,*

*and wild and sweet
The words repeat*

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

*And thought how, as the day had
come,
The belfries of all Christendom*

*Had rolled along
The unbroken song*

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

*Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to
day,*

*A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime*

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

*Then from each black, accursed
mouth*

The cannon thundered in the South,

*And with the sound
The carols drowned*

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

*It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,*

*And made forlorn
The households born*

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;*

"For hate is strong,

*And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men,
Then pealed the bells more loud and
deep:*

"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;

*The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,*

*With peace on earth, good-will to
men."*

*-- With warm greetings, Arthur
and Annemarie Snijders, Eurasia
Region director*

Prayer Requests

- Please pray that during this Advent season, the presence of Jesus would be strongly felt among Nazarenes across the region, and throughout our global church family.
- Please pray for God's continued hand on students of South Asia Nazarene Bible College, as they organize their lives, families and ministries around their studies. Ask God to form them spiritually while preparing them to share biblical truth with congregations as well as people who don't yet know Jesus. Ask God to also continue empowering graduates as they go forward with the work they started as students.
- Please pray for the developing region-wide refugee committee, that He will give them discernment, wisdom, and guidance as they seek to coordinate and equip the church's efforts to serve and love refugees across the region.
- 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.

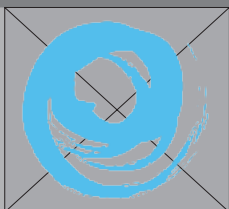
We welcome stories, photos and prayer requests. E-mail submissions to communications@eurasiaregion.org

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