



where WORLDS meet



the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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UKRAINE CONGREGATION GROWS INTO SENDING CHURCH



Photo courtesy Louise Kenyon

Photos courtesy Roman Lebedev

By CIS Communications

The late 1990's in Ukraine were marked by deep economic, political, and social crisis. Corruption and crime were prospering. Alcohol and drug addiction got a firm hold of an alarmingly large percentage of society.

In 1999, Roman Lebedev was a staff member of an alcohol and drug rehabilitation center in the town of Kazatin. Because of Roman's activities, he met a Nazarene missionary, Robert Skinner (current missionary to Poland) and Pastor Volodymyr Masyuk (currently district superintendent in Ukraine). Roman was impressed by the number of charity programs and aid services the Church of the Nazarene had for Ukrainian people, and after a long period

of praying and searching for God's will, in 2001 Roma and his wife Oksana accepted Bob Skinner's offer to move to Vinnitsa and plant a church.

From the very start, the focus of the ministry has been on the people who were labeled as "outcasts" by society, those who were left on the sidelines of life. They were not wanted by the state and even some of their relatives rejected them, having left them alone to die of drug and alcohol addiction and AIDS. At the time, there was no church that provided effective help to these people and the Nazarenes became the pioneers.

It didn't take long for relatives and friends of the addicted people to start coming to check out the Vinnitsa Church

of the Nazarene. People were witnesses to many miracles of redemption and

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In 2001, Roman and Oksana Lebedev and their family moved to Vinnitsa, Ukraine, to start a Nazarene church, working with people with addictions.

The church has shown unconditional love to people on the fringes or cast out of society. Many have been redeemed and, in turn, are going out to share the hope and new life found in Christ with others.

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healing and began attending services. Because of rapid congregation growth, the building became too small to fit all the people inside and with God's help and the participation of the international Church of the Nazarene, a new church was purchased in the city center. Work & Witness teams were instrumental in preparing this Lord's house, as well as three local rehabilitation centers where people could find deliverance from addictions through the power of Christ.

Pastor Roman and the Vinnitsa church are deeply grateful to the international Nazarene church for all of the love, prayers and support that have been given to what is now called the "Vinnitsa Church of the Nazarene." Today, 150 people attend the church regularly on Sunday mornings. Many people have become free from alcohol and drug abuse over the past 14 years. These new creations in Jesus Christ have become productive members of society. They have started to work with their own hands, and many of them have been restored to their once ruined families.

A number of people who were raised up in Christ from the Vinnitsa church are serving as missionaries and church planters. Sergey Talalai, who came to faith in Christ through the Nazarene rehabilitation ministries, became the first missionary in Chisinau, the capital of Moldova (watch a video about the Talalai's ministry in Moldova: [\[medialibrary.nazarene.org/media/wef-opened-moldova\]\(http://medialibrary.nazarene.org/media/wef-opened-moldova\)\). In 2016, another former rehabilitation graduate, Oleg Kuz, plans to start a church in the city of L'viv, Ukraine.](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Today, the Vinnitsa church is growing and extending the scope of its ministry. They have a children's club, Sunday school for children, and an active youth ministry with 30+ young adults. The church oversees three rehabilitation centers and two adaptation centers,

Many have been restored to their once ruined families. A number raised up in Christ are now missionaries and church planters.

where people can re-learn how to live in society and also a trade to support themselves. There are support programs for family members of addicts, HIV/AIDS

program, and a drug abuse prevention ministry in all educational institutions of the city. Besides those ministries, a coffee house also functions actively where people in need don't only drink hot coffee and have a sandwich, but hear testimonies of addiction recovery through faith in Jesus Christ. The church provides worship services for prisoners

in three prisons of Vinnitsa region. Seminars and conferences are regularly conducted in the church for married couples to help young leaders grow and develop.

The Vinnitsa church has a dream to open a day care center to serve the disadvantaged. There are also plans to open "Kitchen of Life," a special cafe, where ex-prisoners will receive training and re-education.

One of Vinnitsa church's top priorities is collaboration with other Christian organizations for effective service to the people in Vinnitsa, in Ukraine, and around the world. The Vinnitsa Church of the Nazarene hosts such international organizations as Teen Challenge, Youth with A Mission (YWAM), Youth for Christ, and a Ukrainian Evangelical theological seminary. With a desire to reach the whole world for Christ, the Vinnitsa Nazarene Church has set its sights on an unreached people group in Central Asia where it is planning a mission trip in 2016.

The church's motto and motivation for service is from Proverbs 24:11, "Be the savior of those who are given up to death, and do not keep back help from those who are slipping to destruction." We praise God for the work He has accomplished through a committed local congregation in Vinnitsa, Ukraine, and a loving international church committed to missions. □

M+Power seeking volunteers for refugee ministry

The Eurasia Region's M+Power initiative is responding to the refugee and migrant situation stretching from the Middle East to Western Europe by preparing to mobilize short-term volunteers to key ministry sites in Central Europe and the Middle East.

M+Power was launched in early 2015 in response to the region's new priority for identifying, equipping and mobilizing Eurasian Nazarenes into long-term (usually one year) cross-cultural ministry. The objective is to help Nazarenes whom God may be calling into missions to get needed experience in an immersive situation.

However, with the desperate need for volunteers to serve hundreds of thousands of refugees in transit from the Middle East, M+Power is stepping in to help connect willing volunteers to refugee ministry coordinators.

Refugee ministry opportunities can be as short as one month, or as long as two years.

Volunteers in Central Europe would:

- Participate in a multinational relief team, as placed, in Bulgaria, Serbia, Croatia or Hungary under the direction of a local Nazarene leader, giving support to other team members.
- Offer love, smiles, friendship, understanding, hope and prayer to displaced people, as you hand them food, clothing and other supplies, and as you help them in the border registration processes.
- Carry stories home to our churches of how best to care and pray for those who come as strangers among us.

Qualifications needed: A heart of love and compassion; an uncomplaining servant spirit; a willingness to work hard in difficult circumstances; continual flexibility; fluency in English.

Volunteers who apply can be deployed in a short amount of time. Workers are

Dutch woman reflects on serving in Jordan

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications



Photos courtesy Annebeth Roor

The local pastors and churches in Amman, Jordan, have been overwhelmed by the numbers of refugees throughout their communities in need of all kinds of assistance. That's one reason Amman was named a host site to receive Eurasia volunteers through the region's M+Power mobilization initiative, which is identifying and deploying long-term Eurasian volunteers across the region.

Annebeth Roor, from the Netherlands, volunteered to spend six months providing whatever assistance was needed to the Gardens Church of the Nazarene in Amman.

She arrived in August, just as the church completed outfitting its community center, where she helped them to launch English language classes for the many Iraqi refugees who attend the church, and their friends. The classes are necessary for many of the Iraqi refugees who plan to immigrate to English-speaking countries in the future.

"They want to work or study and they're waiting until their visas are approved, but there's no process or way of doing things that they know when their visa will be approved," she said. "It gives a lot of insecurity for them and they get more depressed the longer they're in Jordan. They live on their savings, it's very expensive and there's an end to the savings, as well."

She also started a women's meeting, that saw an average of 7 to 10 women attend over the five-week program.

"Most of them are mothers," she said, "and it's really nice for them, just having a night off, and not having to think about their husband or their children or the questions and insecurity they're having. They don't have a lot of things to do."

The women would bring cookies and cakes and they'd drink tea and do something fun, such as watch a movie together.

Roor also assisted another local church that conducts food distribution for refugees twice a month. More than 300 women come to receive the food supplies, but in the process they encounter the love of Jesus through the church members they meet.

Roor is studying for a master's degree in business administration in the Netherlands. Two years ago she joined the newly planted Church of the Nazarene

JORDAN: Roor lived with and served local church

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in Utrecht, where her fiancée is also involved. That same summer she visited Lebanon – her first trip to the Middle East. She enjoyed the experience so much that she wanted to return to the region.

When she heard about M+Power, she talked with coordinator Annemarie Snijders who invited her to attend a cross-cultural orientation in 2015 as part of the application and training process before being sent out. Roor has found M+Power to be a unique way to experience another culture, “because you’re joining a local church, you’re not coming from outside with an NGO (nongovernment organization). I’m really in the culture.”

During the past six months, Roor has been living next door to the church, sharing space with several Jordanian roommates, which has added to her cultural immersion experience.

**/// I really learned that
I have a lot to learn.
You learn your style is a
cultural style.”
-- Annebeth Roor**

“It was a challenge that I couldn’t speak the language, but that solved itself because I am learning the language and I spend a lot of time with Arab speakers,” she said. “I really learned that I have a lot to learn. I learned, you know, that your way of communicating or your way of handling things is not the only possible way. Because you’re in your own culture, you don’t often get feedback about that, but when you’re in another country, you learn your style is a cultural style.”

One of the things Roor has enjoyed about the Jordanian culture is the hospitality.

“If you’re invited to come over for dinner, it’s really cozy and fun. I also love that if you come here, the ladies, they always kiss you and they’re very friendly. One of the most commonly used words here is ‘habiby’ – ‘love’ or ‘sweetheart.’ You can use it for everyone. It’s, in that respect, very warm, so I really love that.”

Roor said that after this experience, she is open to serving cross-culturally again, perhaps longer-term.

“If God calls me, I will go.” □



Annebeth Roor helped the Nazarene church launch English classes for local refugees applying for visas to English-speaking countries.



Roor prays with an ill refugee child, when she joined a church team visiting families in the area.

REFUGEES: Short, long-term

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needed year-round, and can be any age, as well as married couples or singles.

Candidates who stay through June 2016 will be offered a slot at the Eurasia Mission Orientation training and assessment in Bulgaria, September 4 - 7.

Volunteer Costs: €750/month (\$825/month), plus flights and insurance. For a couple or two people coming together the costs will be less.

Please forward initial request to PTarrant@EurasiaRegion.org or jwolst@eurasiaregion.org for clarification of information.

Volunteers who would serve refugees in the Middle East can go for as little as one month, or longer.

Visit www.eurasiaregion.org/volunteers for more information. □

YOUR STORY
OUR STORY
GOD'S STORY

‘Until my last breath, I want to serve.’

Shepherding children in Sri Lanka

By Dorli
Gschwandtner



Photo courtesy Christian Bangert

Nagalingam used to be a lorry (truck) driver. He became a Christian because, on his way to transport goods, he used to drive past a church where the people made a lot of noise, shouting and singing. So one day he decided to go and see why these people are making such a noise – and he became one of them. Today, Nagalingam is a local Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) worker in one of the most destitute areas of Sri Lanka: the Northern Province, which was devastated during the three decades of civil war that ended in 2009. Where Worlds Meet spoke to him about his ministry.

WWM: How did you come to work for NCM Lanka?

Nagalingam: At the end of the civil war there were 300,000 people in the IDP (internally displaced persons) camp. At that time I had three lorries and told all the NGOs: Just take my lorries, do whatever you have to do to help these people! NCM Lanka was in the IDP camp looking for a lorry to transport food items, that is how I got to know NCM. When NCM Lanka needed a field worker for the North, they asked me and I very willingly accepted. I am very happy and until my last breath I want to serve the people.

WWM: What is your job responsibility for NCM Lanka?

Nagalingam: I am a project officer in the Northern Region. I regularly visit the CFCDP (child-focussed community development) centers, but I also sort of help with everything. For example, if I find a child hasn't come to school for two or three days, I will go to their home and find out. Often the children say they have no books or no bag, that's why they don't come, so I address the issue immediately.

“If I find a child hasn't come to school... I will go to their home and find out.”

-- Nagalingam

I also show the children how to cultivate vegetables in the school garden. Some of the things we grow in the school garden are used for children's school meals, others are sold and with the money I help children who do not have school uniforms.

WWM: What do you enjoy most about your job?

Nagalingam: The most interesting part is being with the children. For example, if there's a sports meet, I stay at the school the night before and help the

children to build their houses and get things organized. I like to do things for the people. It's also important to me that there is no interruption in the CFCDP centers, so I talk to the teachers to make sure they do their job properly and find more volunteers to help at the CFCDP.

WWM: What is one challenge you face in your work?

Nagalingam: The elephants. They are quite dangerous and destroy people's houses and gardens. The principal of one of our schools was chased by an elephant a while ago when she was going to school in the morning.

WWM: What are the main “rewards” in your job?

Nagalingam: My ultimate goal is to help create an educated society. That's why I am so much focussed on the children and make sure that they somehow come to school in the morning and continue classes. In this entire division, our two schools (where the two CFCDPs take place) were the two biggest schools, but when we took over, no child would reach above 50 or 60% in examinations; that's very low. But today, one of our schools is the leading school in the division, and the other school is second. □

21 Days Prayer and Fasting

18 January – 7 February 2016

www.eurasiaregion.org/get-involved/prayer/



The Eurasia Region is starting off 2016 with a three-week time of intensive prayer and fasting across the region, 18 January to 7 February. We invite Nazarenes everywhere to join us in an experience of fasting in the way that the Holy Spirit guides you to do so (all food, selected foods or drinks, or some other thing in your life in order to devote more time and attention to prayer, Scripture reading and listening to the Holy Spirit).

Download the guide, including the scheduled Scripture readings by visiting www.eurasiaregion.org/get-involved/prayer/

Feel free to translate the document and distribute in your districts or fields.

You can also download a PowerPoint slideshow that you can use to promote the prayer and fasting in your church.

Check our Facebook page to see updates and information throughout our time of unity in prayer and fasting: www.facebook.com/eurasiaregion

For more information, email cglendenning@eurasiaregion.org. ☐

Scripture Reading Calendar

| God – Human Relationship (Week 1) | Human – Human Relationship (Week 2) | Human – Creation Relationship (Week 3) |
|--|---|---|
| 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 (Monday, January 18) | 1 John 4:7-10 (Monday, January 25) | Genesis 1-2 (Monday, February 1st) |
| John 1:1-18 (Tuesday, January 19) | Isaiah 61 (Tuesday, January 26) | Isaiah 24:4-6 (Tuesday, February 2nd) |
| Romans 5 (Wednesday, January 20) | Matthew 25:34-46 (Wednesday, January 27) | Genesis 8 (Wednesday, February 3) |
| 1 Timothy 6:11-16 (Thursday, January 21) | Luke 6:25-37 (Thursday, January 28) | Leviticus 25:23-24 (Thursday, February 4) |
| James 4:6-10 (Friday, January 22) | Matthew 7:2-5 (Friday, January 29) | Leviticus 23 (Friday, February 5) |
| Matthew 6:7-16 (Saturday, January 23) | Colossians 3:12-13 (Saturday, January 30) | Colossian 1:13-20 (Saturday, February 6) |
| (Sunday, January 24) | (Sunday, January 31) | (Sunday, February 7) |



M+POWER
EURASIA

UPCOMING TRAINING EVENTS

9-12 May, South Asia

3-5 August, CIS

4-7 Sept., Central Europe

9-11 October, India

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

Become a missionary in the Eurasia Region!

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

www.eurasiaregion.org/volunteers

**NEW: Opportunities now
available for refugee ministry.**

*“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.”
– Isaiah 43:19*

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

Helping Hands in Bulgaria



Photo courtesy Dorli Gschwandtner

Through Helping Hands Germany, Nazarenes sent Christmas packages to families in Bulgaria. A team went to deliver the boxes and share time with some of the families who received them. Learn more at <http://www.helpinghandsev.org/> To see other photos of churches around Eurasia involved in Christmas outreach, visit our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/eurasiaregion/](https://www.facebook.com/eurasiaregion/)

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for God's continued hand on the Vinnitsa, Ukraine, Church of the Nazarene, that the Holy Spirit will continue to sanctify the people, and send them out to their world.
- Please pray for those who are currently ministering, and those who will soon be ministering, to refugees from war and conflict in the Middle East. Pray that God would call and send willing people, and that His compassionate love will touch the hearts of all whom they meet. Pray that He would open his heavenly storehouses and pour out abundant resources for churches and workers who are trying to meet the desperate material needs of the people.
- Pray for NCM workers who are ministering to children and families in Sri Lanka. Ask God to use them to bring many children and parents to faith in Christ. Pray for the God of justice and mercy to meet the needs of these families.
- 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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In Christ • Like Christ • For Christ**

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