



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE  
EURASIA

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## Deluged

More than 41 million people have been affected by historic flooding in India, South Asia. Nazarenes have been affected, but also are helping one another.

2

## Building community

A Frankfurt, Germany, church dedicates new building to serving neighborhood, adding affordable housing and counseling services.



5



## 'Limitless'

Youth from Portugal and the Azores seek to multiply their effectiveness by participating in more, smaller events designed for spiritual growth and serving others.

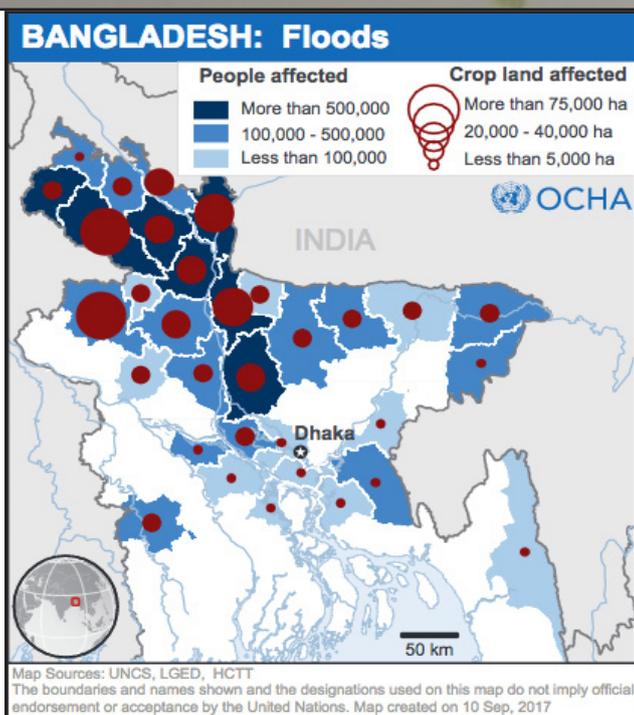
4



# Nazarenes in Bangladesh bring relief to submerged village after flood

*Woman mobilizes local NCM to bring food and clothes to people who lost all*

Photos courtesy Han and Corry Tan



By Han Tan

Komali\* is a Child Development Center (CDC) coordinator in the North-West District in Bangladesh. After massive floods swept into Bangladesh in August 2017, she wanted to visit one of her CDCs, knowing that this CDC was in the affected area. She found the whole village flooded; everywhere she looked there was water.

People and cattle were sitting on the tin roofs. People had lost everything they owned: their belongings, their food, their clothes. Girls from her school begged her for clothes more than for food – although they had not eaten for days – because without clothing they were forced to hide behind tree leaves.

The greatest flood of this century was caused by high temperatures that created heavy rainfall in the Himalaya Mountains, and melted the snow. This water

see “FLOOD” • page 3

# FLOOD: Houses built from mud dissolved

Continued from page 2

rushed down the mountains, across India and Nepal, causing the rivers to overflow, flooding the land. Because Bangladesh is at the end of these rivers, all this water ran into Bangladesh.

Overnight, one third of Bangladesh was flooded.

Estimates are that 41 million people were affected and 1,500 killed. And that is only during the floods. Now that the water has receded diseases like cholera, dengue and malaria are major threats.

When Komali saw the families suffering, her heart broke. She gathered money from herself and fellow workers, and went back the next day with helpers and a boat with food and clothes.

The boat floated over the tops of drowned banana trees, submerged rice fields and tracks where roads and bridges should be. Leaves or trees that reached above the water level were filled with snakes, ants and other small animals.

After four days of mostly standing at the higher level road besides the village, the people received their first relief help.

Three weeks after the water receded, Komali takes me and my wife, Corry, to the village. We have been in Bangladesh with our nonprofit organization, Changing Lives, to provide training on how to use hygienic practices to prevent communicable diseases. The timing of our training seems ordained, as the people will need every skill now, more than ever, to prevent diseases that may be spread and exacerbated by the slowly receding waters.

On our way to the village we see

damaged rice fields, destroyed mango trees and devastated banana plants. The lower part of the brick wall houses are darker where they have been under water. But most of the houses in the village have mud walls, and for that reason they are ruined. The unpaved roads are muddy and slippery. And everywhere we are overpowered by the smell of rotting debris, urine and feces.

We talk with Jacinthe\*, a 35-year-old mother of two children, ages 10 and 4. Jospina is a field laborer; her husband has a disease, disabling him to work. She spent eight days living on the higher level road until the water had receded enough to enter her house.

While still waiting, she had received Komali's help at day four, and later a relief package with food for a week. While living on the road they had no place to sleep, no food to eat for the first four days, no access to safe drinking water, and the water that surrounded them was their washroom.

The family owns a small (two by five meters), two-room house with mud walls, a mud floor and a tin roof. During the floods she lost everything she had: clothes, food, her bed and 20 hens. Her house was severely damaged. She has done some repairs to her roof and walls with sheets of tin that she found in the floods. But Jacinthe is still in the need of more wood and tin for her house. Her most urgent needs now are building materials, clothes and food.

Nazarene Compassionate Ministries International (NCM) has responded to the floods with food packages. Ten thousand packages containing rice, lentils, potatoes, oil and soap are being distributed in the North and North West District of Bangladesh. Depending on the size of the family,

this package will last five to 14 days.

In communities surrounding local Nazarene churches, approximately 63,000 people were affected, including more than 7,800 church members from 948 local churches. NCM also wants and needs to help non-Nazarene families. Twice the amount of food packages would be needed. So only the poorest of the poor receive help at this moment. □

-- Han and Corry Tan were in Bangladesh providing medical training concerning how to prevent communicable diseases such as cholera. From the Netherlands, the couple are Nazarenes who work in medicine, and founded Changing Lives, which brings training to health workers, teachers and others in South Asia about water, sanitation, hygiene and dental care and prevention of diseases related to these.

\*Names changed and location omitted for security

**When Komali saw the families suffering, her heart broke. She gathered money from herself and fellow workers, and went back the next day with help and a boat with food and clothes.**

## Pray

*Please pray for those facing the sudden and unexpected loss of loved ones, for those who lost their homes and have nowhere to go, and for the protection of lives, especially from cholera and other illnesses. Also pray for the churches working to care for their neighbors and meet urgent needs.*

## Give

*Churches and individuals around the world can provide support through the South Asia Flood Response fund. Donations will be used for immediate needs, including food and water purification tablets, as well as long-term rehabilitation and food security."*

*Give through your local church or district, designating your gift to South Asia Flood Response.*

# 'LIMITLESS'

## Portugal-Azores youth help church serve Lisbon community

Photo courtesy Nicole Almeida

By Nicole Almeida

The Nazarene youth of Portugal want to multiply their effectiveness: Rather than having one big event during the year, as in the past, they are investing in many small events.

While planning the events and talking with the local Nazarene Youth International (NYI) leaders, one word echoed in Danilo Aguilar's mind: "limitless" ("*Sem Limites*" in Portuguese). Soon this became the theme for the district's youth, conveying the idea that our God has no limits and we can do anything through Him.

With this in mind, the first district event happened 26-27 May. Youth from churches in the Lisbon area and the Azores Islands gathered for a mini-camp at the Casal Novo Church of the Nazarene.

Aguilar, a missionary in the Azores, as well as the youth coordinator for the Portugal-Azores District, said, "Thank the Lord, we had 50 youth show up for our first youth

event for the year in Portugal! We were able to paint the children's room and the pastor's office, as well as have some quality fellowship time to build relationships among the youth. Pastor Walter Azevedo, Jr., the new Portugal District Superintendent, did great to inspire the youth to know that God has created them to live lives without limitations!"

On Saturday they formed small groups to work on different tasks. They wanted to impact not only the church, but also the community.

One group painted two rooms of the church -- a small children's Sunday School class and the pastor's office, which is being converted into a church lounge area where people can talk and share some coffee before or after service. Now that the kids' room was painted, it has since received more renovations and furniture so that the space is friendly and safe.

Two cleaning groups were also created. One cleaned the back of the church, making the space usable once again. The second group went through the community, picking up trash from the ground, and cleaned the

see "YOUTH" • page 5

# YOUTH: Worked to build trust with neighbors

Continued from page 4



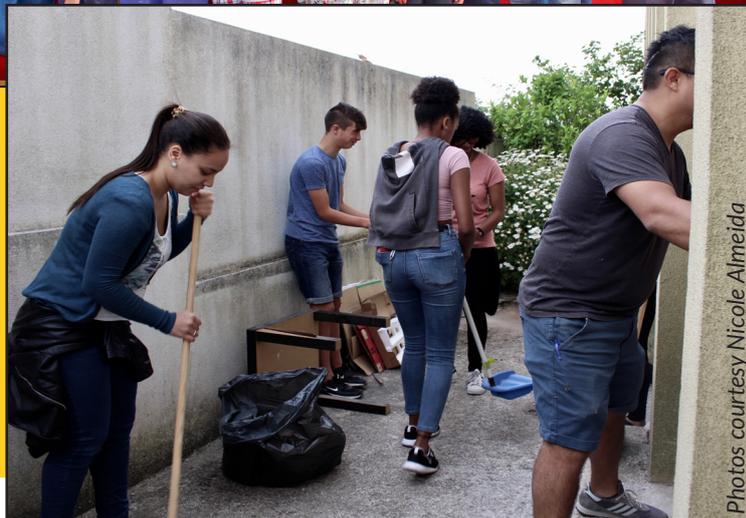
front of the church. This shows the community that they care about them and care about keeping the church welcome to them.

The last group went out and played and socialized with people from the community, in an attempt to build comfort and trust between the church and its neighbors.

"I loved looking at the youth and seeing that we have an opportunity to make this time as a moment of maturing, commitment and growing for the Kingdom in Portugal," said Pastor Walter. □

Top: The Portugal-Azores District youth served the community of Casal Novo Church of the Nazarene during a mini-camp earlier this summer.

Right: Youth painted the church, cleaned outside and picked up trash in the neighborhood.



Photos courtesy Nicole Almeida

## Youth learn about God's freedom

"God's freedom" was the theme of a youth spiritual development weekend, 28-29 July, organized by Lisbon First Church for youth across other Nazarene churches.

Invited guests from other denominations spoke in workshops and in the service. Pastor Nuno Ornellas, senior pastor of CCLX (Comunidade Cristã de Lisboa), was the service speaker. He talked about the love of God being greater than we can imagine and all we need to do is look for His signs to understand this love and

live truly free in Him. Youth were also reminded that continuously comparing ourselves to others will only separate us from the freedom God has for us.

Saturday morning and afternoon, four workshops covered the themes: Christian Freedom in Art, Christian Freedom in Religion, Christian Freedom in Worship and Christian Freedom in our Living. District Superintendent Walter Azevedo, and his wife Renata, spoke about religion and worship. Chris and Linda Munford, missionaries with WEC International, led the art workshop, teaching how to use art to glorify God. The last workshop was given by Pastor Flávio Taela, a local

minister from the Lisbon Church of the Nazarene.

More small events are being planned to create a stronger NYI in Portugal.

"I know God is doing something with the youth for the future of Portugal," said Danilo Aguiar, Nazarene missionary in the Azores and youth coordinator for the Portugal-Azores District.

Pastor Walter said, "I have no doubt that if these youth utilize the strength and force they have, united in Christ, they can discern the spiritual time and take the challenge of calling the Portuguese youth to have faith in Christ. God will do great things." □



Photo courtesy Hans-Günter Mohn

# Frankfurt church dedicates building

*New building includes 10 apartments, counseling center, to serve community*

*By Nicole Almeida*

Sixty years ago, Frankfurt-Hügelstraße, Germany, became the home of the first European Church of the Nazarene outside of Britain. In May, the congregation inaugurated their new building with a celebration of God’s love and faithfulness.

“We have around 200 people attending our church. There are 30 different nationalities representing a multicultural city background,” said Pastor Wolfgang Schwarzfischer, lead pastor. “In our kindergarten, we have a similar situation. From our 36 children, just two or three have two ethnic German parents.”

The congregation had recognized unmet ministry opportunities in their community that required more space to minister more effectively to these needs, so they decided to construct the new building. It offers 10 family apartments at an affordable rent price, a counselling and therapy center,

and space for social services, such as ministry to the homeless, cooking hot meals, and the kindergarten, which serves families in the neighborhood. It was designed to also be ecological, with solar power, a green roof and a system to reuse some of its water.

The church’s 10 new apartments are available at a rate much lower than the average rents in the city, and are being made available to residents from the community.

“Many families have to pay 40 to 50 percent of their income to rent an apartment,” Schwarzfischer said. “With moderate prices, we provide 10 apartments for almost 30 people. It may sound like it is not much in a city where 15,000 to 20,000 people are searching for apartments. But this is what we can do.”

The church will rent to both Christians and non-Christians, so that those who don’t know the Lord have the opportunity to share community life under the influence and care of loving believers.

“Now, around 30 people (family and singles, older and young) live there, encourage each other, help and support them -- a strong Christian testimony in our part of Frankfurt. So, our dreams became true,” the pastor

see “GERMANY” • page 7

# GERMANY: Named for missionaries Alice and Jerald Johnson

Continued from page 6



Photos courtesy Carla Sunberg



Top: Edmund Brumme, a member of the congregation, celebrated with long-time friend Carla Sunberg, who grew up in Germany with her missionary family, the Johnsons. She was there to celebrate the dedication and naming of the new building for her parents. Below: The gathered group celebrated the new building.



said.

A counseling center has also been operating on the church's property, offering services not just to members of the congregation, but families whose children are enrolled in the kindergarten, as well as residents from the surrounding neighbourhood.

Pastor Wolfgang says, "We have worked with divorced families. Problems like violence, insecurity on how to raise children, and school problems have affected the families of our community. So, we thought this was a great opportunity to provide space for a therapist to help on a professional level."

As a center for contextualized outreach in a multi-cultural community, the new building has all the essence of a missional space. That is why the congregation chose to call it the Alice and Jerald D. Johnson Building, in honour of the first missionaries who were part of the church.

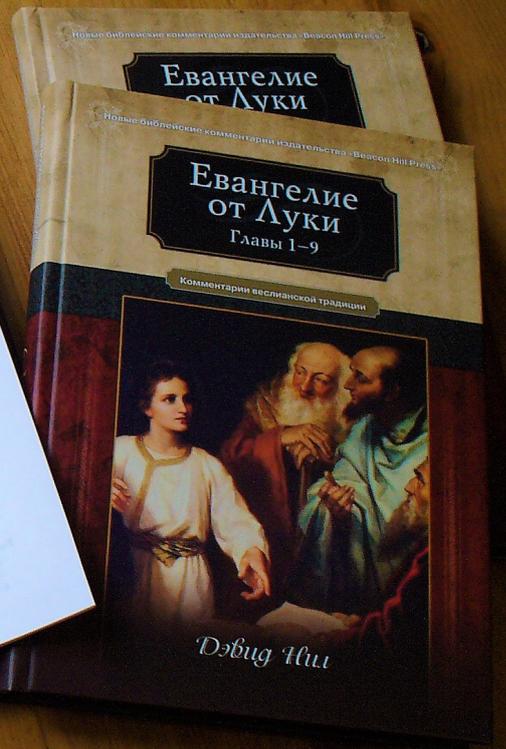
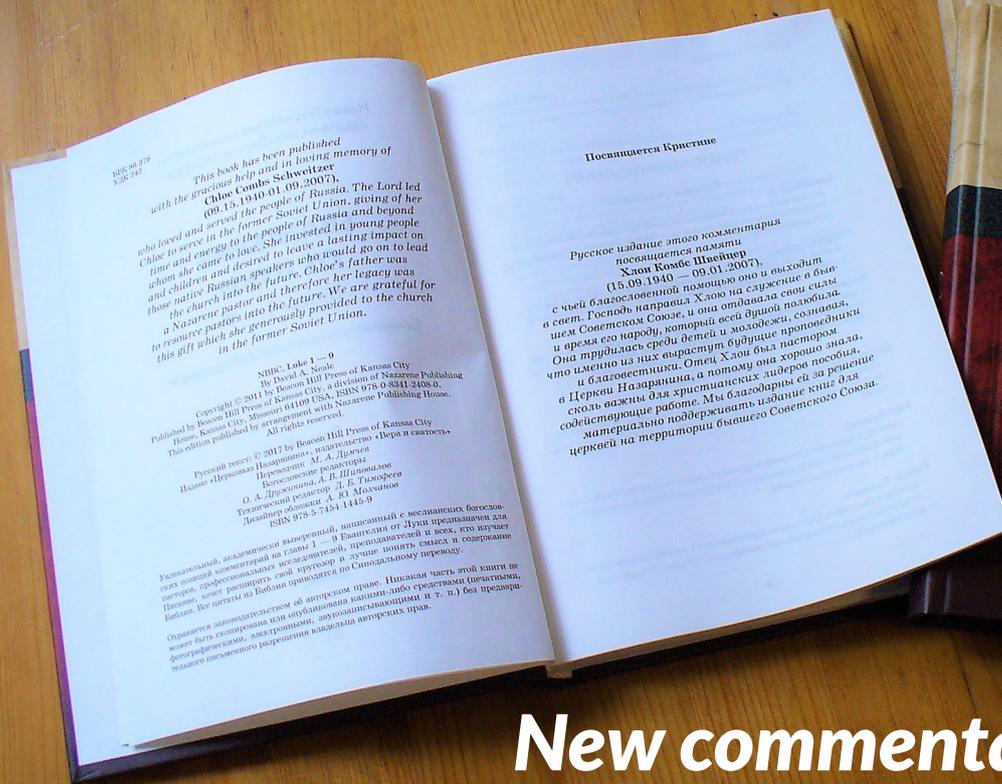
The Johnson family lived in Germany during the 1960s. To this day, the elders from the neighbourhood talk about the "impressive American guy," his caring wife and the lovely children. Pastor Wolfgang says, "The Johnsons opened their house and hearts to many people, providing home, help and a new view towards God."

The inauguration of the building was a memorable day for everyone who has seen the church grow and has seen the work they have done in the community. More than two hundred people gathered at the building to celebrate, including the Johnsons' daughter, Carla Sunberg, who grew up with her family in Germany, and in June was elected by the global denomination to the role of general superintendent.

The Germany District Superintendent Ingo Hunaeus, and the rector of European Nazarene College, Dr. Klaus Arnold, also took their time to be part of the celebration. A former pastor of the church, Dr. Hermann Gschwandtner, did not miss this day, as well.

With the new building now open for ministry, the Church of the Nazarene Frankfurt-Hügelstraße continues to bring healing, community and the love of Christ to their part of Germany. □

*Note: We have corrected an earlier version which misstated the previous presence of the Church of the Nazarene in Britain.*



# New commentary on Luke published in Russian

By Nikolaj Sawatzky

Thanks to the generosity of the late Ms. Chloe Schweitzer, who designated part of her estate for the publication of New Beacon Bible Commentary series for pastors and students in the CIS Field, the Luke 1-9 volume has been translated and published in the Russian language.

On the first pages there is a dedication statement for Ms. Schweitzer in English and Russian, which in itself is a testimony of the love she had for God and for the people of Russia. A big “thank you” to Carla Sunberg, former Nazarene missionary to Russia, who helped us compose the dedication statement.

I would also like to congratulate and thank the CIS Literature Committee, and especially

its chair, Dr. Olga Druzhinina, for many hours of dedicated and hard work spent to see this publication appear in such a timely manner. Thank you!

The Lord willing, we will publish six more volumes, which will bring it to a total number of 18 published volumes of commentaries in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition in the Russian language.

May this resource be a blessing to the people in Russia and the CIS.

The New Beacon Bible Commentary is a series published by The Foundry Publishing, formerly known as Nazarene Publishing House. This series is designed to provide 21st-century scholars, pastors, students and laity an academically competent, readable commentary in the Wesleyan theological tradition. Many volumes in the series have already been published, with more being written. Learn more: <http://tiny.cc/rmlgny> □

-- Nikolaj Sawatzky is the Eurasia Region Literature Coordinator.



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## NMI Convention video online



The video of the 20-minute Eurasia Region presentation at the Global Nazarene Missions International Convention, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, in June 2017, is on the Eurasia Region website.

You may play, or follow the video link to the [Vimeo.com/Eurasia](https://vimeo.com/Eurasia) page and download the video to share with others. □

*“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.”*

*—James 1:19*

## Prayer requests

Please pray for all those affected by flooding, and those grieving the loss of loved ones. Pray for safety and rescue of those still in danger, and for all who are providing support, food, shelter and other assistance to those displaced by floods. Pray that the waters would recede quickly, and rebuilding could begin. Pray that God can work through His people to bring healing, restoration and new life to flood-affected areas.

Pray for the Frankfurt-Hügelstraße Church of the Nazarene as it continues reaching out from its new building, which allows for new ways to support and serve people in the neighborhood. Ask God to especially anoint and bless the church and provide many new opportunities to share His love.

Pray for the youth of Portugal and the Azores as they seek ways to grow spiritually while serving others.

Pray that the newly translated Luke 1-9 commentary will bring greater spiritual development to Russian-speaking Christians, and that more volumes will be translated and made more widely available.