

where WORLDS meet



the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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Gelnhausen church furnishes house for trafficking victims

By Dorli Gschwandtner
Special to
Eurasia Region Communications

"I never ever expected such a response. This is unbelievable. We'll have every room filled!" Mary* is standing at the entrance to the Helping Hands storage building, staring at furniture and household items towering high above her head. And that's only one of three garages full of donated sofas, cupboards, beds and mattresses, tables and chairs, dishes, towels, sheets, electrical appliances – even lamps and light bulbs.

"I can't believe people even thought of the light bulbs!" Mary exclaims. She's so completely overwhelmed that her eyes fill with tears. "And most of this is much higher quality than we ever expected to have. We were planning to furnish a good, useable, safe shelter for the young women. Now we can offer them a real home!"

When two employees of Helping Hands visited Romania last December, they heard firsthand about a new (non-Nazarene) ministry to young women who have been victims of human trafficking. In horror they listened as Mary related some of their experiences – appalling stories of suffering and abuse.

For a few months now, Mary and her team had been ministering to these women, giving them temporary shelter when they return to Romania and helping

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Take Action | Dutch Youth Get Missional



By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

For many teenagers, a Christian youth camp conjures images of playing sports, singing around a campfire, swimming, late night games, the inevitable romances and long worship services with youth crowded around the altars.

For the youth of the Netherlands, a weeklong camp this January in the city of Delft was much different. The winter camp – a first of its kind event – was completely focused on missional living. Instead of being centered on the young people themselves, all the activities were designed to take them out of their own orbit, to be centered on the lives and needs of others.

Throughout the week, the camp's planners took the 40 youth and 20 leaders to surrounding cities and neighborhoods

where they interacted with people who are experiencing different kinds of need.

One group visited elderly people in a retirement home. Another group served pancakes to homeless people. Others knocked on the doors of university students to ask if they could wash their dishes and just talk. Some of the youth visited teen moms living on the street.

Some spent time at a refugee center for immigrants who have fallen through the cracks of Netherlands' immigration system.

The goal, according to Wouter van der Zeijden, the youth minister for the Dutch District and a planner of the camp, was to get the youth thinking missionally not just during the camp but into the months and years following.

"At the end of the winter camp, the participants had to present an action plan. They were asked what they wanted to do in the upcoming year for the people around them," he said.

The goal was to get the youth thinking missionally, not just during the camp, but into the months and years following.

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ACTION: BLESSED BY BEING A BLESSING

During the week the youth contemplated ideas, and brought them together as the camp concluded. They came with numerous ideas, large and small. Out of the 60 people there, 26 action plans were presented. The plan was to award 1,000 euros to the person or group with the best action plan for a missional ministry or activity.

“We were so overwhelmed with all the ideas and we couldn’t really choose anything,” van der Zeijden said.

They offered 100 euros to each group or individual with a proposal for their action plan. So far three groups have been awarded the money, and seven other groups or individuals are in the planning phase and may apply for the money in the upcoming year.

One of those plans was from Jedidja Maris and Charlotte Goudswaard, two youth at the Hoeksche Waard Church of the Nazarene. Their action plan was to host a benefit dinner at their church to raise money for their church’s ministry to an impoverished Roma community living at a garbage dump in Romania.

“The benefit dinner was organized to raise money to build a house,” said Maris. “The dinner was served for about 100 people and we raised 1,000 euros for the building.”

The church is planning to send a work

team, including some of the youth, to build the house for a Roma family during an upcoming holiday.

The outreach activities and the action plan brainstorming helped the youth build confidence in their calling and ability to be used by God in sharing His love with people in need.

“Personally, God taught me again that he has such a complete plan for my future, that when he calls me to do something, it will become great,” Maris said. In the past, she said, she doubted her ability to be effective in helping others because of her young age. “I learned my thought of being too young was nonsense.”

Rev. Jaap Maris, who is the youth pastor

at the Hoeksche Waard church (and Jedidja Maris’s father), taught a workshop at the winter camp, and accompanied some of his church’s teens home from the camp.

“I heard stories in the car going back and stories of the leaders and it was really, really good,” Rev. Maris said. “The impact was much bigger than I had expected. They really had the idea of ‘What can I do?’ We have been talking quite a while how to become a more missional local NYI and district. Now it has been a real boost.”

The outreach activities exposed the youth to needs they hadn’t been aware of before.

Goudswaard was in a group who visited the refugee center where about 150 people, originally from different countries in Africa, are living

disconnected from Dutch society.

“We went to the women’s room and we talked to them and we heard their stories,” she said. “It made me feel so powerless when I see such things, it makes me mad.”

She also went with a group to make pancakes for homeless people and talk with them.

“I think it was really good because the people who were living there, I think they’re kind of lonely because they only have each other.... I think it was good for them to be able to tell the story to people from outside.”

Goudswaard said when she was younger, she was active in Youth With a Mission and had a passion for missions, but that at some point her passion faded and she lost interest. Being part of the winter camp gave God the chance to restore her passion.

“I’m really excited to do more things like that and look forward to what He has next for me. I found what a blessing it is to be a blessing.” ▼



Above: During winter camp, the students visited the elderly and spent time talking and listening with them.

Below: Another mission project during the camp involved asking university students if the youth could wash their dishes for them.



SHELTER: Donations filled three trucks

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them learn how to lead independent lives. For this purpose they had just decided to purchase a house in the capital.

“Tomorrow we’ll go and sign the papers,” Mary explained. “It’s just the house though – there’s nothing in it, no furniture, no dishes, nothing. We trust that God will provide all we need!”

Elke Tengler, office manager of Helping Hands, had an idea already forming in her mind.

“People often ask us whether they can donate furniture and dishes and the like,” she said. “Why don’t we send out an appeal for donations and you arrange for a truck to pick it all up from Gelnhausen?”

Back in Germany, Elke and her colleague sent an article to the local newspapers to share about this ministry and ask for used furniture and household items. For one day, everything remained quiet. Then the avalanche began.

For a couple of weeks, the Helping Hands office turned into a call center. “Yes, we’d love a bedroom wardrobe!” – “Some bathroom furniture would be wonderful, thank you!” – “Could you bring the dishes ready-packed for shipping, please?” – “No, thank you, that’s very kind but we already have seven sofas!”



Volunteers at Gelnhausen Church of the Nazarene gathered two trucks’ worth of household supplies to furnish an empty home that will become a shelter in Romania for women who are victims of human trafficking.

When a large truck arrived from Romania at the end of January, it couldn’t hold all of the donated furniture. So the truck driver called a colleague to come and pick up the rest. For an entire day, the Romanians pushed and heaved and hauled and hoisted until everything was safely loaded.

“I can already imagine where I’ll put this!” Mary kept saying as piece after

piece found a place on the trucks.

“We wanted to have a house where these young women can feel safe and protected after all they’ve gone through. I can’t wait to welcome them to their home!” ▼

* Name changed for security reasons.

Leadership Conference held in Gelnhausen

By Dorli Gschwandtner

Special to

Eurasia Region Communications

This January, for the first time in 36 years, the Leadership Conference of European Nazarene College did not take place in Büsingen. Instead, pastors and lay people from all over Europe travelled to Gelnhausen, a small town near Frankfurt in central Germany – which incidentally is the geographical center of the European Union.

The main speakers this year were Dr. Daniel Boone, President of Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, USA, and Dr. Johannes Reimer, Professor for Missiology at the University of South Africa.

For three days during the last week of January the Leadership Conference participants listened to excellent lectures by the guest speakers, celebrated

inspiring services, enjoyed the delicious food prepared by the “kitchen team” of the Gelnhausen Church of the Nazarene,

For three days, participants listened to excellent lectures, celebrated inspiring services and met old and new friends.

explored the city’s picturesque old town and enjoyed meeting old and new friends, sharing news, giving encouragement and just having a relaxing and refreshing time together.

Following the Leadership Conference, EuNC faculty and staff met for their annual Faculty Assembly, with 40 participants attending from most of the 18 different learning centers. For three

days, they celebrated accomplishments, reviewed existing policies, procedures and new initiatives and prepared further implementation. The assembly also included various sessions for equipping and strengthening the faculty team and the participants had ample opportunity to discuss issues, share ideas and learn from each other.

Antonie Holleman was also given a celebratory send-off, as he recently resigned from his long-time position of Academic Dean in order to become co-pastor with his wife, Wilma, of the Zaanstad Church of the Nazarene in the Netherlands.

The faculty are looking forward to January 2014: the next Faculty Assembly is scheduled to take place in Barcelona, Spain. ▼

Study shows Work & Witness raises giving

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

The Global Mission Mobilization office, along with the Research Department at the Nazarene Global Ministry Center, recently released the results of a study confirming a long-held assumption that churches involved with Work & Witness are more generous churches.

The Research Department examined the finances of more than 500 churches in the four years before their first Work & Witness trip, and then in the four years after, to see how participation correlated with giving. The results were released in December.

It revealed that in the four years following churches' first mission trips, these churches increased giving to missions an average of 37 percent. More than 60 percent showed an increase in missions giving as a percentage of total spent on everything from local ministry programs to mortgages and utilities.

In addition, they saw an average increase of 24 percent in their overall expense budgets (total spent for all purposes), with 75 percent of these churches reporting at least some increase.

Meanwhile non-participating churches saw an average increase of 11 percent in giving to mission, with only 65 percent reporting any level of increase.

The study showed no difference in giving between churches that sent mission teams domestically and those that went internationally, said Marty Hoskins, Global Mission personnel administrative director.

People "are more willing to invest in something they've experienced and know firsthand," Hoskins said. "When

they experience missions themselves, it becomes real."

Pastor Hans-Günter Mohn said that's what happened in the Gelnhausen, Germany, Church of the Nazarene, a church that had been missional from its early days.

"Work & Witness has strengthened the missional spirit among our people, because they have seen missions for themselves," Mohn said.

The church had several members participate in Work & Witness teams prior to the church's first official team to the Azores in 1991. Before to the trip, the church collected a large container of items to furnish a center,

including cupboards and washing machines. The team, which included a number of children, encountered a missionary from Ireland and other missionaries there and listened to their stories.

"This really motivated the people," Mohn said. "We finished a lot more than we had planned, because everybody wanted to work hard and

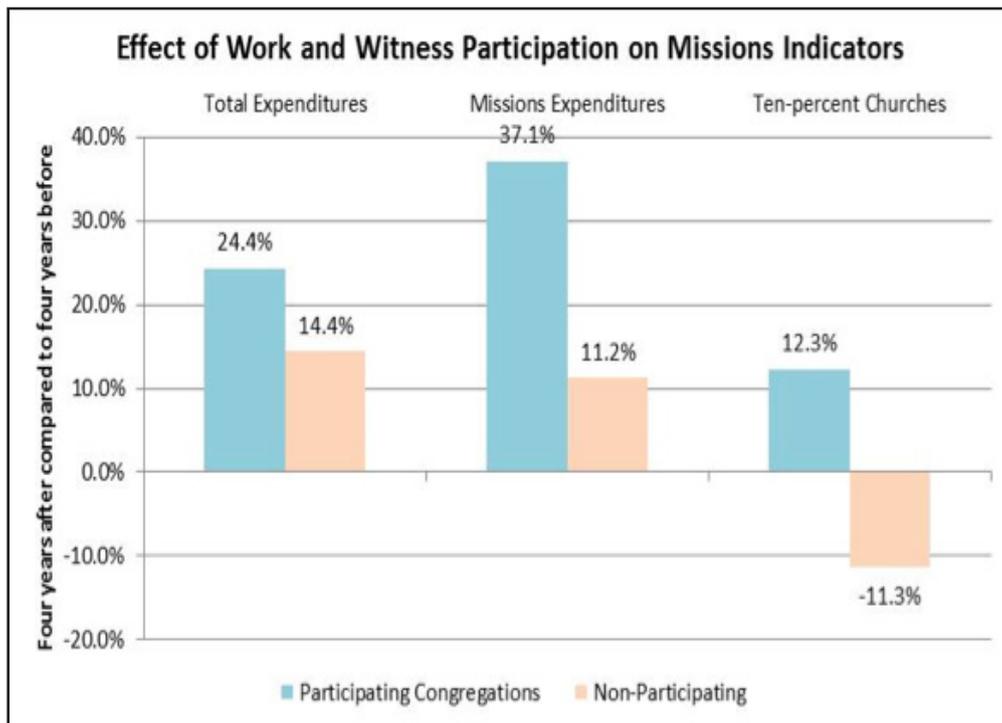
they were all so impressed. Afterwards people were even more excited about doing things for missions."

Since Work & Witness began in the 1970s, the Eurasia Region has been the recipient of countless Work & Witness teams, and has also sent teams within the region.

Work & Witness began in the 1970s with a group of concerned laymen in the U.S. who wanted to do something to meet the needs they saw around them. Although they did not claim to have a call to traditional career missionary service, they weren't content to remain home praying and giving to the work that missionaries were doing. They also wanted to offer the expertise and skills they possessed to contribute to the mission work in personal, hands-on ways.

In 1984, this grassroots movement became an official short-term mission opportunity called Work & Witness.

Self-funded teams of as few as two people travel to a site to help with construction, medical, technical, and evangelistic needs for up to 21 days. Churches from many different nations participate each year. ▼



Volunteers needed for upkeep of NTC archives

Have you ever wondered where the authors of "Called to be Saints" - Dr Rae & Dr Noble - found all the facts and information for their book? And where do students go to get details and data for their research on the early Holiness Movement in the UK?

Located at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, are the Archives of the Church of the Nazarene in the UK - and help is needed. Hundreds of documents, reports, minutes, letters, sermons, have been collected and cared for over the years, and they are continually being added to

documents that contain our history of the International Holiness Mission, the



Calvary Holiness Church, Emmanuel Missions, the Church of the Nazarene and so on.

The college and the district appeal to anyone who has a love for history and an ability to get things in order, to consider giving some time and help to the archives. Volunteers are needed!

College principal, Dr Deirdre Brower Latz, writes, "If you have some time and could make it to Didsbury to help us...or if you have some money and would like to contribute to the upkeep of our shared history, please do contact me!" enquiries@nazarene.ac.uk ▼

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Power of One

...it's here!



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*“For there is one God and one intermediary between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself as a ransom for all, revealing God’s purpose at his appointed time.”
1 Timothy 2:5-6 NET*

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Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the youth of the Netherlands, as they renew their passion for missional living through the development of special, independent mission projects in the upcoming year. Ask the Holy Spirit to keep the experience fresh and their hearts open to ways He is leading them to live missionally every day.
- Please pray for the human trafficking shelter in Romania, that the staff and volunteers will be hands and feet of Jesus to the women and girls who have been victimized by human trafficking. Pray for God to meet this ministry’s urgent needs.
- Pray for the continuation of the widely influential ministry of Work & Witness as teams come to the Eurasia Region and are sent within the Eurasia Region. Pray for God’s hand of blessing on this ministry and on the teams.
- Please pray for the Holy Spirit to breathe a fresh revival – His power of Pentecost – into Nazarenes around the world, leading up to and during the General Assembly and Conventions 19-27 June, 2013.

“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 mission workers across the region.

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

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

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