

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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BASEBALL CAMP IN SPAIN TAKES MINISTRY TO NEXT LEVEL



Photo courtesy Josh Herndon

After many youth in Illescas, Spain, asked missionaries Josh and Shannon Herndon for lessons in playing baseball, they gathered equipment from U.S. churches and held a baseball camp. It drew 20 youth and 120 children during the week.

By Gina Grate Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

When missionaries Josh and Shannon Herndon asked youth in the community of Illescas, Spain, where they live, what they would be interested in learning if they had a chance, they were surprised at the repeated answer: Baseball.

American baseball is not commonly played in Spain. The nearest baseball diamonds to Illescas are in the major cities of Madrid and Barcelona. There's nowhere to buy baseball equipment, either.

With the request in mind, last year as they traveled to speak in U.S. churches, they asked Nazarenes to collect used baseball equipment that they could in turn use to host a baseball camp for youth and adults in Illescas.

They were overwhelmed with donations of gloves, helmets, bats and other baseball gear from U.S. churches and organizations.

This July, a Work & Witness team

of four baseball coaches from Hillsboro Church of the Nazarene, Indiana, U.S., came to Illescas to help the Herndons host their first baseball camp. From 7 to 11 July, the coaches led games at a rented sport field in the mornings and the evenings.

"The point was to get into the community and get to know people we would never have contact with otherwise," said Shannon.

The Herndons moved from Madrid to Illescas two years ago with the purpose of planting a church among Spanish people. All the Nazarene churches in Spain mainly reach immigrants, and very few Spanish people attend. A native Spanish couple – Loli Benito Caro and Miguel Murcia Ruiz – had attended the Madrid church for some time, but dreamed of having Nazarene ministry in their home town of Illescas, just outside of Madrid. So the Herndons agreed to move there and assist them in pioneering

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LDI WEEKEND TRAINS UK YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP

By Trevor Hutton
Director, Momentum UK

In June, 24 young leaders, mentors and facilitators went to Whitemoor Lakes, UK, for the Leadership Development Initiative Covenant Weekend. The weekend was full of varied activities including team building exercises (which included raft building, the "blind, mute lame, deaf" team challenge and "follow a leader" activity); seminars on the nature of Christian leadership, privileges and responsibilities of leadership; creative worship including outdoor foot washing, communion, prayer stations, songs and videos; devotional reflections on the life of Moses and David; icebreakers like human bingo, and cling film sculpturing; self-awareness tasks; and lots of opportunities to share stories and laugh together.

The primary aim of the weekend was to create a community of mentors and mentees led by the Momentum LDI team to journey

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YOUR STORY
OUR STORY
GOD'S STORY

'Everybody can enter in'

Passing of a pioneer

By
Jenny Ward



Rev. Angelo Cereda, of Catania, Italy, passed away from an illness on 19 July, just two months after his wife, Francesca Nastasi, preceded him in death. Cereda was a pastor, family man, lover of the classics, and a friend. He pioneered many new locations for the Church of the Nazarene throughout Italy, but what made him so extraordinary was his passionate love for God and for people. His son Rev. Giovanni Cereda, pastor of the Catania Church of the Nazarene in Italy, remembers, "many times [my father] came home very late in the night just because he met some people on the street and started talking about the Lord."

Cereda accepted the Lord in 1946 while talking with a man who was a member of the Baptist Church in Catania. Even though this man was nearly illiterate, Giovanni said his father "was attracted by the wisdom of this man" and he discovered his "knowledge was really due to the presence of God, the Spirit of God was alive in this man." Consequently, Cereda attended his church and it was there that he committed his life to God and became a Christian. It was also there that he met his wife, who was already a member of

the Baptist Church in Catania.

In 1948 Cereda and Francesca established a home Bible study with 30 members. Over the next two years this number grew into two churches, one in Catania and one in Misterbianco, a nearby town. Cereda also established preaching points in Belpasso, Adrano, Syrakus, Giarre, and Messina, all nearby Italian towns. Giovanni remembers hearing his father's strong voice throughout the church.

"He was an extemporaneous and dynamic preacher...he could not stand behind the podium."

During this time Cereda also met Pastor Alfredo Del Rosso, the first Nazarene district superintendent in Italy and through Del Rosso's friendship, Cereda and his two churches became part of the Church of the Nazarene.

While Cereda's ministries were met with growth, there were also many challenges to overcome. Right after World War II, the Catholic Church was the national church, and as a result, Cereda's evangelism was met with suspicion. More than once the police entered Cereda's services inquiring about what they were doing; the people in the neighborhood suspected they were a

secret society meeting in private. This did not stop Cereda. He responded in his usual transparent fashion: "Everybody can enter in, so we want you to come in and see with your eyes and hear with your ears."

Due to Cereda's courage, the Italian Nazarene churches continued to open their doors to everyone. Today, both of Cereda's children are pastors in Italy. Rev. Giovanni Cereda is in Catania and Cereda's daughter, Rev. Angela Cereda, is the current pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Rome.

Throughout Rev. Angelo Cereda's service in Italy he triumphed over obstacles, forged lifelong friendships, and lived out his life with passion and love. He will be deeply missed by his family and many friends.

His son Giovanni said, "I highly esteem him and I loved his joy and enthusiasm for preaching. The fact that he overcame so many challenges shows a strong testimonial: love for God and love for the Church." □

Nepal youth build fresh water well for village

By Nepal Communications Team
South Asia Field

The deep tube-well is like a green tree in the desert,” says Biren Rai, Eastern Nepal area coordinator. “Now hundreds of families have felt relief from water scarcity like getting some shadow in the sunny day.”

When migrants came down from the mountains to the plain, they occupied the best part of the land without worrying about malaria and the tropical climate of the summer season. Less productive high altitudes were left over for the late migrants. This belt of land mainly extends between the lower hills and the fertile plain land, called the *terai*. Fertile plain land has the advantage of fresh water wells due to its lower altitude, whereas the upper part of the *terai* remains dry and barren in winter and spring. There is very little chance of cultivating vegetables or any plants until the favorable rain starts in the middle of spring. Abraham Rai, a 70-year-old Nazarene pastor, says, “Women walk one to two kilometers to fetch water for cooking and some of them even carry water from there to feed animals.”

Local Nazarene youth observed that most of the tube wells and streams went dry in winter in Aitabare, a small tole of Peltimari village of the Ilam District, and villagers suffered for lack of water. Students made the 500- to 800-meter walk from their school to drink water. Villagers had built a water tank in the jungle nearby but it was unsafe and insufficient to them. So the local Nazarene youth thought they could do something for the villagers.

One day the local CDC (child development center) invited some experts from AWANA (Approved Workmen Are Not Ashamed) club and arranged an open health check-up for the village children. Many children were found victimized by water borne diseases. So they planned in cooperation with AWANA to supply water.

The local Nazarene youth began to raise funds for installing a deep tube well. The local Church of the Nazarene funded some amount for the deep tube well. Funds were also granted by the CDC’s parents’ Self-Help Groups (SHGs), local church and AWANA club.



Photos courtesy Nepal Communications

Youth in Nepal had compassion on a village that suffered without fresh, clean water. So they initiated a project to dig a tube well, and did the work themselves.

Some parts of the tube well were not available in the local market so the Nazarene youth went to another place called Birgunj, which is 379.3 kilometers away and brought all the things needed for tube wells. The youth also volunteered to dig the hole for the tube wells and labored very hard in the hot sun.

“It is not easy to physically do something in the spring sunlight in *terai* but we made it,” said Arpan Rai, a local Nazarene youth leader. “We were all sweating and our clothes were all wet.”

They were worried whether they could be able to find water under the ground, but they did when they installed the pipe 62 feet down from the level of the well, which was already dug 20 feet deep. Now the deep tube well has benefited more than 100 households. Villagers are getting plenty of water for household purposes, such as to drink, for cooking, washing clothes, feeding animals and even nearby school

students come to drink water.

While building the tube well, there were many challenges. For instance, there was not enough manpower, not enough funding, or enough local people who were willing to volunteer for digging the ground; some of them didn’t show up. Not everybody was able to contribute to the fund. So, the AWANA club contributed the remaining fund.

“Now there is a learning for the villagers that difficulties can be overcome if there is unity,” said Biren Rai. He also added that villagers are inspired by Nazarene works and they are planning to install another deep tube well from their own investment and efforts. □



BASEBALL: Camp made connections for ministry

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Photos courtesy Josh Herndon

a new work primarily through serving the community with free activities and gradually building relationships.

The experiment is a new strategy for the denomination in the the Western Mediterranean Field.

So far, the two couples' activities in Illescas have been producing fruit on a small scale. Josh meets with three individuals for coffee to practice his Spanish and help them with their English. The couples also host a kids' club on Friday evenings for neighborhood children. They offer free English classes to a handful of adults. And with the relationships they've begun, in January they launched a Sunday night worship, Bible study and fellowship gathering in the Herndons' home, which sees 13 to 15 people attend regularly, half of whom are not believers.

"The years we've been here in Illescas, we've been trying to discover what would be a good way to build relationships with people on

a large scale," said Josh. "After home assignment (in 2013) we realized we were ready to move this into a phase two and move this into a bigger scale. We really needed to expand this and that's really what led to this whole baseball ministry."

Expand, they did. The baseball camp attracted about 20 teens and young adults, and about 120 children through the course of the week.

To watch a video about the Illescas ministry, visit <http://tiny.cc/do39jx>

Parents and grandparents came to watch their kids learn and play. Some parents said that if the Herndons held another camp in the future, they wanted to help. And the event turned the Herndons into mini-celebrities in the community. People who attended the camp recognize them on the street or in grocery stores and approach them to talk.

"We now have connections with people that we wouldn't have had before," Shannon said.

The teens who attended the camp want to continue meeting with the Herndons. Josh and Shannon are planning to form a regular youth group that can eventually be part of the new church plant.

Many questioned the Herndons about why they were spending their own money to rent a sport field and host a community camp for free.

"It was a really natural flow of conversation to go from, 'Why are you doing this for our community?' to 'Who are you and why are you here?'" she added. "We had multiple conversations like that with people we had never met before if we hadn't had the baseball. People really valued that we as a church were interested in helping the community because people are not accustomed to that."

The baseball camp seemed to have a particularly strong influence on Josh's friend, Eduardo*, a Spanish man who claims to be an atheist, and has developed a close friendship with the Herndons. He decided to help them run the camp. Serving the youth of the community transformed him.

"We saw more laughing and smiling from Eduardo in one week than we've seen in two years," said Josh. "Seeing that positive effect on someone we really care about was fantastic. I think we saw a softening of his heart this last week."

The Herndons are in the process of filing to become a community association with the city government. Since religious organizations cannot be associations, they are forming their association as a cross-cultural exchange between Nazarenes in the U.S. and Spain. This will give them the freedom to hold more sports camps in the future, as well as English classes and other social services to benefit the community.

They also are starting to plan another week-long baseball camp in 2015, and then to bring three Work & Witness teams in the spring and summer of 2016 to expand the camp into a summer-long activity. □

*Name changed to protect privacy.



New regional child dev. facilitators



Atul and Sunita Meshramkar have accepted the role of regional child development facilitators and will begin their new duties 15 August 2014. This is a new role that has been developed through a collaboration between Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) and the Eurasia Region.

The Meshramkars will stay based in their home country of India while assisting NCM Global Child Development Coordinator Trino Jara

(Armenia). Part of Atul and Sunita's new assignment will entail the development of training materials for leaders of child development projects and ministries across the region and then implementing this training in a variety of locations as requested.

Atul and Sunita have coordinated NCM ministries in India for the past 13 years. During their leadership, they have been heavily involved in the training of NCM workers and establishing child development centers (CDCs). As a result, there are more than twenty centers in India today. Both have earned their Master of Social Work. They have two children living at home: Saumja and Abishek.

The Meshramkars will have new email addresses. If you need to be in touch with them in their new capacity, you can reach them at atul@eurasiaregion.org or sunita@eurasiaregion.org

Join us in prayer for Atul and Sunita as they make this transition and begin their new assignment next month. ☐

New NCM coordinator, India

Rev. Trisha Das has been appointed as NCM India coordinator for India Field. He started functioning in this role 1 August 2014.

Rev. Trisha Das has been serving in the Church of the Nazarene in the Eastern India District in various capacities, along with serving NCM India for more than 10 years. He is well experienced in the CDC work as well as has first hand experience in various projects conducted under the Eastern India District.

He comes with post graduate degree in Biblical Studies from UBS, Pune, as well as Master of Social Work. He has been well trained through all the NCM trainings as well. He is enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Asia-Pacific Nazarene Theological Seminary.

Rev. Trisha and his wife Shamoli currently stay at Kolkata and they have a son Aron studying in 7th grade.

Please join us in praying for Rev.



Trisha and his family as they prepare to take up this new challenging responsibility. He can be contacted at his email: trishabarandas@gmail.com.

Pray for him as he will start working with all the district superintendents immediately, along with all the CDC leaders under his leadership, in this vast India Field. ☐

LDI: MENTORING TO LAST 2 YEARS

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together over a two year period, enabling young adults to explore and develop leadership potential.

Mentees were paired with local church mentors and both were resourced with different tools and trained in their roles and responsibilities. They will meet monthly face to face to learn and grow together in forming friendship, accountability and intentional development of character and habits for life. This relationship is accountable to the local pastoral team as the local church will be the key laboratory in which ministry and leadership development can be explored and developed.

The Momentum LDI team are responsible for ensuring all the processes and relationships work well between mentors, mentees and local churches and will ensure that good communication and practice take place. The LDI community will connect together every six months to renew friendships, share learning and reflect on the journey so far.

The event was amazing and now the process begins and we hope that the covenant we all voluntarily signed in the presence of God and one another will remind us of the commitment we have made to follow the process through so that we all reach the commissioning service at the end of the two years together and rejoice in what God has done.

The Leadership Development Initiative is in its fifth year on the Eurasia Region. To date, nearly 600 emerging leaders and mentors have been prepared through the LDI for next generation leadership. The goal is to prepare 1,000 Christlike leaders for the Eurasia Region. ☐

P rayer & Fasting

Regional Director Arthur Snijders invites you to join the Eurasia Region in a united prayer and fasting initiative which started 7 March.

Field strategy coordinators, district superintendents and local pastors have been asked to lead the monthly prayer and fasting effort on the first Friday of every month, through 5 September.

The objective of this seven-month emphasis is to bring Nazarenes across the Eurasia Region together in a new spirit of interconnectedness and unity around God's mission.

The theme for the initiative is drawn from Philippians 2: 1-5a (NIV):

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same

mindset as Christ Jesus."

Each month we will focus on one section of this scripture in our prayers, and also focus our prayers on requests from one field of the Eurasia Region. A prayer coordinator has been appointed for each field and this person will help to distribute the month's themed prayer and the list of prayer requests to all who wish to



participate.

The Eurasia Region communications team will also post prayer requests, short themed prayers and prayer and fasting resources on our regional prayer web page, at www.eurasiaregion.org/prayer

The following people will serve as prayer coordinators for each field. Write to them if you would like to receive the monthly prayer requests:

Central Europe Field: Steve and Rachel Beiler, ceur-prayer@eurasiaregion.org

Eastern Mediterranean: Seta Green, emed-prayer@eurasiaregion.org

CIS: Alexander Zelensky, cis-prayer@eurasiaregion.org

Northern Europe: Rev Colin McConkey, neur-prayer@eurasiaregion.org

India: To be decided

South Asia:

Silvia Sinha, sasia-prayer@eurasiaregion.org

Western Mediterranean: Shannon Herndon, wmed-prayer@eurasiaregion.org

We will pray for each field in the following order:

March: Central Europe

April: Eastern Mediterranean

May: CIS Field

June: Northern Europe

July: India

August: South Asia

September: Western Mediterranean

Join us for a new spirit of unity in prayer and fasting this year.

prayer & fasting



*“You are my refuge
and my shield; I
have put my hope
in your word.”*
—Psalm 119:114.

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Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the ministry of Nazarenes and missionaries in Illescas, Spain -- that many would open their hearts to Jesus Christ, and that the ministry workers would find open doors and relationships in which they can share Jesus. Ask God to grow the new house group meeting, and to develop their plans for an association.
- Please pray for the church in Italy, and for Giovanni Cereda, as they mourn the loss of pioneer pastor Angelo Cereda. Ask God to pour out His Spirit on Nazarenes across Italy, that they will be empowered and unified around their mission to their communities.
- Pray for youth, leaders and churches across Nepal as they find creative ways to reach out to their communities in the love of Jesus Christ.

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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