

where WORLDS meet



the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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Power of One 'reloads' in India

By Dolphy Biswas & Gina Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

India -- The second phase of Power of One, the Eurasia Region's missional church initiative, launched in the India Field on 8 October at the Mission India Campus in Nagpur. Almost 200 pastors and leaders were in attendance.

The event provided a refreshed church planting vision, with training and teaching that built on the first Power of One training held in India in 2010. The training motivated the pastors and leaders to spread the Gospel and take on the mission entrusted to them. They have realized that it is not in their own strength that they work, but that they work in the strength of the Lord.

"Through Power of One, as a leader I have learned to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit in the lives of my fellow ministers and motivate it towards the God-given vision," said Rajiv Yangad, district superintendent of Central Maharashtra District.

Having Eurasia Region leaders at the event – some of them playing an active role at the conference – helped rejuvenate the vision and the mission of the leaders and pastors who were present. The theme of the event was that it is the Holy Spirit who is the source that enables and empowers each one to be a witness.

One highlight for many was to have nationals as workshop leaders

see "INDIA" • page 3

MOSCOW MILESTONE

Church celebrates 20 years



A hundred people gathered to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Moscow First Church of the Nazarene on 14 October. The celebration also marked the birth of the Church of the Nazarene in Russia, in 1992, which is part of the CIS Field. Photo courtesy Tim Wetmore.

By Gina Pottenger
Eurasia Region Communications

Moscow, Russia -- About 100 people packed out the sanctuary of Moscow First Church of the Nazarene on 14 October to celebrate the church's 20th anniversary.

The celebration didn't just mark the church's birth in 1992, but in many ways, the beginning of the Church of the Nazarene in Russia, which is part of the CIS Field (Commonwealth of Independent States).

The weekend celebration began with an open house at the church on Saturday, 13 October, with face painting for kids, a photo booth, and other activities for the community. About 30 people were on hand at any given time during the event, according to Davide Cantarella, missionary.

The Sunday worship service included the former missionaries Revs. Chuck and Carla Sunberg, who planted the church and were the first CIS field strategy coordinators. Rev. Chuck preached. A DVD featured a slideshow of pictures from across the years, and another video outlined the Church of the Nazarene's core beliefs. Gifts were presented. The entire service was translated into sign language for the hearing disabled attendees.

"It was really more looking forward than looking back," Davide said.

A few people who had recently faded from the church reappeared and reconnected with the congregation. Some who had not previously professed a relationship with God took communion for the first time. Rev. Tatiana Cantarella, pastor of Moscow First, led two women to a relationship with Christ during the service.

see "CELEBRATION" • page 4

A LIGHT IN THEIR EYES

By
Gina Pottenger
Eurasia Region
Communications



Volgograd, Russia – On Yuri Ananyev’s 27th birthday, he was totally drunk, partying at the biggest restaurant in Volgograd. He was trying to forget that his marriage of just five years was on the rocks and he was miserable.

He couldn’t get home on his own, so a friend took him home to his wife, Natasha. But before leaving, the man made a surprising invitation: he suggested the couple attend a Nazarene Bible study.

Yuri left the next day for a business trip, but Natasha decided to check it out. She had been searching spiritually, participating in the Krishna society and in occultic activities.

“After that, something changed,” Yuri said. Normally, when he’d come home drunk, they’d get into a screaming match. Now, Natasha began to have patience with him and take care of him.

“I start to think something happens [that] I need to check.”

So Yuri went with her to the Bible study. In 1993 in Russia it was a desperate time for most people. He remembers the markets and shops were almost empty. Only those with government vouchers could trade them for food, and it usually wasn’t enough to last the entire month. Those without vouchers went hungry.

Most people were unhappy.

Yet, at the Bible study, the people smiled and had a light in their eyes.

Yuri attended the Bible study for several months, just to make sure the joy they seemed to have was genuine and consistent. He began to listen closely to the spiritual things they talked about.

One day the pastor, Lonnie Norris (now the CIS field strategy coordinator) preached on drinking, smoking, yelling and fighting. He said anyone involved in such activities should ask Jesus to come into his or her life. He promised that

“We decided it stops from our family. Now we’re teaching in the church about strong families. It is a big problem – nobody knows how to build strong marriage.”

~ Yuri Ananyev

Jesus would help such a person quit, and simply suggested that people give it a try. Yuri was persuaded; he stood up to pray.

Within six months, Yuri found freedom from alcohol and smoking. His marriage to Natasha experienced a renewal and she became pregnant with their second child.

After their relationship was restored, the couple became interested in their genealogical history. As they conducted

research, they discovered that all of their relatives had failed marriages or simply lived with their partners.

“We decided it stops from our family. Now we’re teaching in the church about strong families. It is a big problem – nobody knows how to build strong marriage.”

The couple became leaders in the Nazarene church.

Just because they knew Jesus didn’t mean hard times were over. When their son was born, he was very sick with a blood disease; it seemed providential that

Natasha gave birth in the only hospital in the city with the proper system to give an infant a life-saving blood transfusion. They named him Victor, inspired by God’s victory in their lives.

When he was just 11 months old, Victor became seriously ill with bronchitis. Yuri rushed him to the hospital. The boy was put into a room with another boy also sick with bronchitis. Yuri spent many hours in the room with his son and the other boy’s father.

The next day, the other man’s child died. Yuri’s son began to improve. It was up to Yuri to close the dead child’s eyes. He was deeply shaken by the experience – so shaken that he quit his job as owner

YURI: Ready to do anything but pastor

from page 2

of a cosmetics store. Profits and money just didn't seem important anymore.

Without an income, the family quickly reached a financial wall. One day there was nothing left in the kitchen but bread and jelly and tea.

“He [Yuri] is quite an evangelist. He has been my inspiration and a great help. When I think of God’s power to transform a life, I think of Yuri,”
~ Lonnie Norris

“I opened the last box of tea, put the last tea on the teaspoon and think,

“What should we do? We have nothing to eat. It’s Christmas time.”

The doorbell rang. A man from the church stood there with bags of food.

“We are thinking at the church maybe you need some help?” the man asked.

Amazed and filled with gratitude for God’s provision through the church, Yuri felt ashamed for just sitting at home. Then and there, he told God he only wanted to serve and decided to tell the pastor of his resolution.

He asked Norris for some odd jobs around the church. Norris shocked him by saying, “I think God called you to be a pastor.”

“I said, ‘No! Not that. I’m ready to do anything, but not to be a pastor.’”

Norris challenged him: “How [will] you recognize it if you never try it? You don’t know for sure.”

Norris left Yuri in charge while he traveled to the United States for General Assembly. When he returned, he was

convinced that Yuri would make a good pastor’s assistant.

Today, Yuri has been the full-time pastor of the Church of the Nazarene in Volgograd since 2000, and Natasha is a full-time nurse, as well as helping with marriage training and working with children in the church.

Yuri was recently appointed the Power of One trainer, responsible for leadership training across the CIS Field in the missional church initiative launched by the region in 2010. He serves as part of a district that is making plans to send missionaries out to other parts of Russia, Norris said.

“[Yuri] also works as a promoter of evangelical crusades conducted across the world. He is quite an evangelist. He has been my inspiration and a great help. When I think of God’s power to transform a life, I think of Yuri,” he added. ♦

INDIA: Po1



from page 1

who were trained and then delivered the workshops in a way that was applicable to the context of India.

“I wish that the Power of One could be held every year, maybe zonally,” Yangad said. ♦



NCM House is home for Kingdom activity

Belfast, Northern Ireland -- It was in 1991 that Billy Mitchell had a vision for a cross-cultural ‘Conflict Transformation’ ministry in Northern Ireland, which became known as LINC (Local Initiatives for Needy Communities).

For nearly two decades Billy and his wife, Mena, worked tirelessly in this compassionate ministry. Following Billy’s death in July 2006 the work has undergone some changes.

The building at 218 York Street, Belfast, continues to be home for faith-based and community organisations and is a hub of activity for the Kingdom. And within the last year a new committee has been meeting



NCM House will help local churches engage with their communities. Photo courtesy TOGETHER Magazine

to redefine the work of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) in Ulster and Ireland as a whole.

The building has been renamed NCM House, and will be the base for NCM operations and activities. The committee is hoping to appoint a coordinator of compassionate ministries to initiate a new ministry to the North Belfast area and to help local congregations engage with their communities. ♦

CELEBRATION: Building is a miracle

from page 1

“I am very pleased that, thanks to our church for so many years, so many people have learned about God, come to faith in Him and received Him as their personal Savior. This is great!” said Tatiana Gorbenko, a member who joined the church in the early years. “The highlight of the celebration was being in the service with the same people I used to stand with 10, or 15 years ago, some of the young people I shared my life with.... Even if we are scattered geographically and don’t see each other much, we are all with the Lord.”

Beginnings

The first Nazarene volunteers, Roy and Carolyn Campbell, arrived in Moscow in 1992 to work with the summer Work & Witness teams, as well as Mark Mann, a volunteer, who arrived to coordinate mission teams. The Sunbergs followed within a month to begin the work of planting the first church. That summer, a number of Youth in Mission teams came to conduct outreach and evangelism to Moscow youth. When the summer ended, a core group of Christian young people had formed. The Sunbergs gathered the group to brainstorm what their new church would look like.

“They said ‘We’ve never been to church in our lives. We have no idea what church would look like,’” Carla recalled.

The group rented an auditorium in an equestrian arena that had been built for the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics. For the next two years their Sunday



The Sunday worship service included (right) former missionaries Revs. Chuck and Carla Sunberg, who planted the church and were the first CIS field strategy coordinators. Tatiana Cantarella (second from left) now pastors. Her husband Davide is far left. Photo courtesy Tim Wetmore.

worship services were permeated with the pungent odor of horse stalls, while cats and dogs ran across the platform.

The arena included a restaurant and bar. A young waitress served the Sunbergs, who struck up a relationship with her. Eventually she came to Christ, accepted a call from God to pastor, and studied at European Nazarene College.

Thirteen years ago Tatiana Cantarella returned to pastor Moscow First Church and continues to lead the church today.

“I found Christ in this church 20 years ago and have been maturing just like the church was maturing,” Tatiana Cantarella said. “It is in

this church that I first heard God calling me to ministry and it was this church that entrusted me [with] pastoral ministry. I was shaped as a Christian and as a pastor in this church.”

Miracles

The church building is a miracle story itself. Two years before the work began in Russia, a woman donated money to buy a church building there. After the fledgling church had met for two years in the equestrian arena, the Sunbergs, the Campbells and Svetlana Michaelovna, the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries director, began to shop around for space they could purchase for the church. They found the current building in the same neighborhood where they were already meeting. When they asked about the price, they learned it was for the exact amount of money that the woman had donated four years before.

“What became our phrase was, ‘With God all things are possible.’ We just would say that over and over again,” Chuck said.

Those acts of God’s faithfulness encouraged faith in the members, too.

“These 20 years have been a mix of difficulties and joy. But in spite of the circumstances, they [pastors] all were relentlessly faithful to God and their faithfulness was rewarded by God’s faithfulness for these 20 years,” said Darya Ershova, who has attended the

What people said...

“It was amazing to look back and to also look forward to see where God is leading us next. The highlight was reconnecting with the people who used to be a part of the church in the early years but have left. A whole big family came to the celebration and we’ve been able to re-establish friendships and feel like these people are truly seeking the Lord and are making their way back to God. We are excited to see God work in them. And we also made connections with new people who are making their first steps to God. And that is exciting, too!”

– Rev. Tatiana Cantarella, pastor,
Moscow First Church of the
Nazarene

“I was 13 when I started going to church, and was going through a very difficult time in my life. Back then I even wrote two letters to God about the fact that no one understood me and that I wanted to put an end to my life. But God never let me do that. Thanks to Mark Mann [note: a volunteer in 1992-94], Chuck and Carla, and everyone who participated in starting the church, and in teaching English at my school - thanks to these people, I’m with God.

Only thanks to the Lord, I have a wonderful husband. Only thanks to the Lord, I have what I have - a husband, a place to live, a family, good relationships to everyone, and many friends.

I am very grateful to God for Tatiana Cantarella, our pastor. She has given me a lot in life, and I learned a lot spiritually. I am grateful to God for Teanna and Jay Sunberg, for the youth meetings they held at their home when I was a teenager and I needed the support and understanding that I could not find at home, and found in them.

I am very grateful to Davide Cantarella, for the fact that he is a good example of the evidence of God’s blessings, faithfulness and love; all his life is an example of life

see “MOSCOW” • page 5

see • page 5

MOSCOW: Birth of CIS Field



In December 2010, Moscow First Church launched a ministry to the hearing impaired, and now all worship services are translated with sign language. The anniversary service was translated in full (pictured here). Photo courtesy Tim Wetmore.

from page 4

church for 10 years, since she was 13. “These 20 years have been the work of God.”

Prior to the anniversary service, the Sunbergs went to visit an elderly widow who had been their neighbor for years. Her husband had become a Christian under the Sunbergs’ ministry. He had been a committed atheist and member of the Communist Party before he found Christ. This gentleman went home to be with the Lord just a few years ago but the woman showed them a photo album she had made of her husband’s life. The last 20 percent of the album was filled with pictures of his life after he knew Christ.

“It was pictures of us and the church, and his wife just said, ‘He became a different man,’” said Carla. “The work was so hard and it was so hard to even live there and Sometimes you wonder, did you ever make a difference? We came away and said, ‘It may not have been huge, but we touched this life.’”

Ministries

Moscow First Church is focused on reaching out to the disenfranchised, Davide said. Since the early days, the church has incorporated a hair salon in its building, offering free hair cuts to low income people. They also offer English classes on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

In December 2010 they launched a ministry to the hearing impaired, and now all worship services are translated with sign language. Tatiana and two other women are studying sign language to better communicate with the hearing

impaired attenders.

Moscow First is not just a church, but a family, as well as a place where God has been able to work in the members’ lives, said Darya Ershova, who has been attending for about 10 years.

“I’m not perfect, I have to grow and thank God for that, but he continues to work on my mistakes in my life through other people in our church, and because of my changes, I see changes in my

from page 4

with God.”

- Tatiana Gorbenko, 34

“To me it meant to be part of our small, but close-knit family. Like in all families, there are problems, but these 20 years have been the work of God. He has made me a person with a capital ‘P’ and He keeps on working on me.

Of course I’m not perfect, I have to grow and thank God for that, but He continues to work on my mistakes in my life through other people in our church, and because of my changes, I see changes in my family.”

- Darya Ershova, 23

family,” Ershova said.

“We celebrate with Moscow First, our first church to organize in Russia. I remember the early days when services were held in a horse arena/barn,” said Lonnie Norris, CIS field strategy coordinator and former missionary to Russia. “Today, Moscow First is alive. Multiple diverse ministries reach out to the community that say clearly, all are welcome and loved.” ♦

Moscow First timeline

- 1991:** Attempted coup which eventually leads to the disintegration of the Soviet Union and results in doors being opened to church organizations.
- 1992:** Numerous YIM teams, Work & Witness teams and volunteers arrive to help begin the work of the Church of the Nazarene. Nazarene volunteers Roy and Caroline Campbell, and Mark Mann arrive.
- 1992:** Chuck and Carla Sunberg arrive.
- 1992:** Moscow First Church is planted as a new start with youth.
- 1993:** After six months in the country, Sunbergs are assigned as field strategy coordinators.
- 1995:** Moscow First Church purchases its present building.
- 1995:** Jay and Teanna Sunberg, missionaries, arrive to pastor Moscow First Church.
- 1996:** Hair salon for low income people opens in church.
- 1998:** Jay and Teanna Sunberg move to Bulgaria.
- 1999:** Tatiana Cantarella becomes first local pastor.
- 2002:** English class ministry begins
- 2005:** Chuck and Carla Sunberg depart CIS Field.
- 2010:** Ministry to the hearing impaired begins.
- 2012:** Moscow First celebrates 20th anniversary

Italy church goes to camp

Surrounded by the high mountains of the Val Pellice, 45 people gathered in August in Forterocca, Italy, for Family Camp 2012. Instead of going to the beach, they decided to climb to the top and enjoy a nice week “in the family.” Pastors Giovanni Cereda, Salvatore Scognamiglio, Daniel Fink and Antonella Van Immerzeel conducted various seminars and Bible meditations during the morning sessions.

At the end of the camp, 16 people proposed to “become witnesses,” committing together, each doing their part to advance the work of God through the Church of the Nazarene in Italy.

The next Family Camp will be held in August 2013.

(Reprinted from Italy District newsletter.)





CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE **GENERAL ASSEMBLY** & CONVENTIONS

Register now for conventions in 2013

Indianapolis, Indiana -- The next General Assembly and Global Conventions for the Church of the Nazarene will be held in June 2013. These events take place once every quadrennium, or four years.

This time the General Assembly will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, and the Global Conventions will take place in 11 locations around the globe at the same time.

The NMI and NYI Global Conventions will conduct business via interactive video conference with all sites at the same time. The SDMI Convention will offer workshops locally.

Delegates and visitors from Eurasia

will have the opportunity to participate in the conventions in Razgrad, Bulgaria; Hyderabad, India; and Indianapolis, USA. Other cities expecting to host the conventions include Manila, Philippines; Johannesburg, South Africa; and Quito, Ecuador, to name a few.

The General Assembly will take place 22-27 June 2013. The Conventions will take place 19-21 June 2013. Visitors may attend at any of the locations. All visitors and delegates must register to attend through their respective district office.

More information can be found at www.nazarene.org/ga ♦



The 2013 General Assembly will take place 22-27 June, in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA. Photo courtesy www.nazarene.org.

Register now for the EuNC Leadership Conference 2013

Gelnhausen, Germany -- The annual EuNC Leadership Conference will be held January 28 to 30 at the Gelnhausen Church of the Nazarene. The event will be hosted by the Germany Learning Centre. The theme will be "Making a Difference."

The devotional speaker for the morning devotions and evening services will be Dr. Daniel Boone, president of Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, Tennessee, U.S. He will

address current issues in Western societies from a Christian viewpoint. The seminar speaker is Dr. Johannes Reimer, professor of mission studies at the University of South Africa and lecturer in missiology at the Theological Seminary of the Free Evangelical Church in Ewersbach, Germany.

For more information and the online registration form, please visit the website at <http://www.eunc.edu/lc-2013/>. ♦

Blankets for Bulgaria

Tigmandru is a predominantly Roma town with a population of about 5000 people. Most of the population does not have steady work; people make a living by working as day laborers in agriculture in the summer and by cutting and selling forest wood in the winter.



Many people live in small, basic houses with no running water.

The local Nazarene church in Tigmandru serves its neighborhood with a mother/baby care program. Each week lay pastor Magda Cini gathers mothers and their babies for simple lessons on hygiene and child care. During this time, Magda builds trust and relationships, and shares about the Lord.

Magda said the families need baby blankets to keep their infants and young children warm. Members of the Bisingen Church of the Nazarene responded this fall by hand-sewing or donating 20 blankets, which they gathered on Sunday, 28 October, to send to Tigmandru. Each blanket is labeled with "Made for You- Psalm 139:14." ♦

International Day of Prayer

Sunday, 11 November, is the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church. This nondenominational event is devoted to intercessory prayer and action for persecuted believers in Jesus Christ globally. Intercessors also pray for those who are oppressors, and for the nations and governments which promote persecution, or overlook it.

Please consider setting aside special time during your Sunday service to pray for persecuted Christians around the world, and especially for our persecuted Nazarene brothers and sisters throughout the Eurasia Region. ♦

Germany District Launches GemeindeAkademie?

- GemeindeAkademie = church academy
- dual approach to ministerial training
- opportunity to minister under supervision and mentorship of an experienced pastor in a local church or church plant
- accredited online program of EUNC Deutsch
- program provides 137 ECTS
- leading to a certificate in Christian ministry
- fulfilling the ordination requirements of the Church of the Nazarene

Praxis and theory go hand-in-hand over a period of at least three years.

Pastor Mohn and the Gelnhausen Church of the Nazarene will launch the pilot project.

- get more information/register



- contact Hans-Günter Mohn
gemeindeakademie@nazarener.de

I'm in!!!



Power of One

...it's here!



www.missionaleurasia.com



“But he said to me,
 ‘My grace is sufficient
 for you, for my power
 is made perfect in
 weakness.’ Therefore
 I will boast all the
 more gladly about my
 weaknesses, so that
 Christ’s power may rest
 on me.”
 ~ 2 Corinthians 12:9
 (NIV)

Upcoming Events

- 16-17 Nov • NTC Board of College governors, Manchester
- 20 Nov • NTC Open Day, Manchester, United Kingdom

www.eurasiaregion.org

NTC Streams

In 1979 Nazarene Theological College (NTC) instituted an annual lecture series, the Didsbury Lectures. Each year a series of four lectures is given by a leading scholar or theologian. In October, Dr. Thomas A. Noble gave a series of lectures on Holiness and the Holy Trinity. For the first time in the history of the Didsbury lectures, they were also streamed live online and made available online after the lectures.

Dr. Noble is one of the UK’s leading theologians with two books in the area of 20th century church history. He is also the president of the Wesleyan Theological Society. Dr. Noble has a long standing relationship with NTC, being appointed to the NTC faculty as academic dean in 1976, and teaching full-time from 1976 to 1996. Since then he has been linked to the college as a Senior Research Fellow.

The lectures this year covered



the topics of Holiness from a Wesleyan Perspective; Holiness, Atonement and Sanctification; Holiness and the Incarnation; and finally Holiness and the Holy Spirit. The lecture notes and recordings are available from the NTC website at the following web address: <http://www.nazarene.ac.uk/home/about-us/didsbury-lectures.php>

Next year’s Didsbury Lectures will be given by Professor Gordon Wenham between the 28th and 31st of October 2013.

Nazarene Theological College is a partner institute of the University of Manchester, offering theological education from certificate level through to postgraduate research degrees. It is proud of its association with the city of Manchester and the University of Manchester. www.nazarene.ac.uk. ♦

Prayer Requests

- Pray for Moscow First Church of the Nazarene as they reach out to the disenfranchised and others in their community.
- Pray for Yuri Ananyev as he pastors the Church of the Nazarene in Volgograd, Russia, and is responsible for Power of One training across the CIS Field.
- Pray for the Nazarene church in Italy. Pray that the new witnesses at family camp will trust God to increase their faith and to also increase the Kingdom and its influence through them.
- Pray for persecuted Nazarenes across the region: that they will have the Holy Spirit’s endurance, strength, abundant joy, courage and forgiveness.
- 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 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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