

where WORLDS meet



the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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MNU Europe: new academic program begins at former European Nazarene College campus

By Beth Crocker

Büdingen, Germany – In June, 13 MidAmerica Nazarene University students, accompanied by faculty and sponsors, spent two weeks traveling around Europe as the first group in the university's new MNU Europe program.

The program is based in Büdingen, Germany, on European Nazarene College's former residential campus. As European Nazarene College has now shifted its focus from residential to decentralized education, the campus continues to serve the learning centers across the region. The availability of the campus led MidAmerica Nazarene University to pursue their vision for their internationally orientated program, MNU Europe.

MNU Europe is a program developed by MidAmerica Nazarene University where students may come to the former EuNC campus to study general core classes, such as general history and fine arts, as well as more diverse classes such as American Writers in Paris and Church History, each with an emphasis on intercultural studies. With access to numerous intercultural experiences, the main goal is to allow these students to expand their insight into the world around them. During this past summer term in June, the four courses offered were Church History, American Writers in Paris, English Composition II and Intercultural Experience.

see "MNU EUROPE" • page 4

Students abroad | Universities Partner with Eurasia Region



By Beth Crocker

Recently the Eurasia Region has benefited from an influx of young mission volunteers through partnerships with several American Nazarene undergraduate and graduate educational institutions.

MidAmerica Nazarene University (MNU) and Trevecca Nazarene University (TNU) are establishing combined mission and

study partnerships with the Eurasia Region, with the objective of expanding international learning and service opportunities for their students.

And for the past two years, Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS) has sent

students of its 365M program on one-year mission assignments throughout the Eurasia Region (as well as other

“Commitment to higher education and commitment to global mission have been part of the DNA of the denomination from the very beginning. The two have been complimentary, always building on one another.”

- Gustavo Crocker, Eurasia Region director

see "UNIVERSITIES" • page 3

'I wanted to give my life,'

BROUGHT TO FAITH CALLED TO SERVE

By
Gina Pottenger
Eurasia Region
Communications



Kathmandu, Nepal – Padam Samsohang Subba had a dilemma: he wanted to follow Christ, but his father was a priest in a traditional religion followed by 3 or 4 percent of the people of Nepal.

As a teenager, he had helped his father with clan celebrations such as life cycle rituals, birth, death and marriage ceremonies.

When he was 14, his mother was very sick. His father's priestly ministrations did nothing to improve her health. The ineffectiveness of the family's religion to heal his mother planted seeds of doubt in Padam.

"This made my mind disturbed," he says. "I didn't believe my father was doing the right thing."

One day, a man who had run away from the village as a 13-year-old returned as a Christian pastor. He had come back to evangelize his home village. Gathering as many of the villagers as would listen, especially the youth, he preached to them and taught them worship songs.

The story of Jesus was new to the village, for in Nepal less than one percent claim to be Protestant Christians, according to government figures.

"I remembered he preached about the broad way and the narrow way, about hell – that those who deny Christ as Savior, they will go to hell," Padam says. "I was quite afraid and I wanted to give my life. Four people, including me, accepted Christ. I was 14 years old."

Although Padam says fear of hell

probably isn't the best way to motivate people to believe in Jesus, it worked for him. That fear helped keep him faithful when his father persecuted him for abandoning the family religion.

Soon, the visiting pastor left, giving the teenagers one Bible to share. It fell to Padam, the youngest of the four, to keep the Bible.

Left without spiritual guidance, Padam didn't know how to pray, and didn't always understand what he read in the Bible. But when he led the family's cows and ox to an open field to graze, he took the Bible along.

"I read the New Testament. I can remember when Jesus helped so many weak and sick people. That increased my

Being a part of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries fulfills his passion for social work and development.

faith, because Jesus could heal and raise dead people; that convinced me Jesus was the real God."

Over the next two years, his father continued punishing him for following Christ. He quit paying for Padam's school fees and books, so Padam had to earn money to pay them himself.

When he was 15, his mother died of her illness. Padam had been very close to her, and her piercing absence made

him feel even more alone. His peers were getting jobs, and he had none. By the time he finished school, he desperately wanted to escape the village.

That's when the pastor returned and took Padam to a church for baptism. Through his encouragement, Padam went on to study for three and a half years in a Bible school in Kathmandu.

With his education complete, Padam took the pastor's advice to plant a church in his home village. His father was his biggest opponent.

After one year, Padam started a church. A young man who was one of the original four believers eventually took over leadership so Padam could study for a bachelor's degree and then a master's degree in anthropology in Kathmandu. In the city, a friend introduced him to the Church of the Nazarene.

He learned from the other Nazarenes about entire sanctification, and also the emphasis on Jesus' love instead of fear of hell, he says with a smile.

As part of the Nazarene church, he went through the Eurasia Region's Leadership Development Initiative (LDI), which is a strategy to mentor up and coming leaders for ministry in every district in the region. He also became program manager for a compassionate ministries child development center (CDC). The number of CDCs grew from one to four, and then to nine. He coordinates the programs, including a home garden project; he serves as secretary to the Nepal District Advisory Board.

Universities: Students, region benefit alike

from page 1

regions), allowing them to experience international mission experiences while earning a diploma in Cross-Cultural Ministry.

“Exchange programs are nothing new,” says Gustavo Crocker, Eurasia Region director. “Commitment to higher education and commitment to global mission have been part of the DNA of the denomination from the very beginning. The two have been complimentary, always building on one another.”

The region, spanning across 14 time zones and with ministry in more than 40 countries, is always in need of people to come and serve. Being able to combine theory with practice is what makes these burgeoning study programs a growing attraction for universities and their students. It also allows for cross-cultural exchange as, in the case of the MNU Europe program (see companion story on page 1), the classes are open to

students from across Europe, and in the TNU program (see bottom page 3), classes mix students from both the U.S. and the Central Europe Field.

Whether it be on the students themselves or on the field communities, short term and long term volunteerism alike is making an impact.

“We had four different language groups present,” says Teanna Sunberg, missionary to Hungary, who travelled with the Trevecca group. “We were able to bridge the cultural and the language barriers.”

Even within these similar programs, there is a wide array of diversity. Students have the option of coming on the trip best suited for them.

The region hopes that through these cross-cultural experiences, many students will recognize a call to missions that they may have otherwise never sensed or considered. For the students who may not be called to a lifelong expatriate mission, “we hope and pray they become ambassadors of ministry reality of the region,” says Crocker. “As the students return to their native countries, may they become the link for their generation to keep their peers engaged in missions.” ♦

To learn more about 365M, visit www.nts.edu/365m

To learn more about MNU Europe, visit www.mnu.edu/europe

To learn more about TNU's Submerge and Immerse programs, visit <http://www.treveccalive.com/mica-massie/immerse/> or <http://www.trevecca.edu/give/stats-facts/>

Trevecca students are ‘Submerged’ and ‘Immersed’ in missions

By Beth Crocker

Zagreb, Croatia - Trevecca Nazarene University (TNU) has partnered with the Central Europe Field to establish two different study programs that provide students and alumni with hands-on mission experience, while the field - particularly Croatia - benefits from an influx of volunteer missionaries ready to conduct relational ministry.

This past June, Trevecca's two-week “Submerge” program brought students on a ministry tour of Central Europe, during which they conducted vacation Bible schools (VBS) and camps in various communities, including two Roma villages near the capital city of Zagreb, in Croatia.

The interaction brought about its intended objective, as envisioned by Teanna Sunberg, a missionary in Central Europe, and Cathy Mowry, a Trevecca professor: For students to observe the cultures and to ultimately dialogue and connect with the people. This was meant to open the door of relationship and trust among the communities, while enabling

the students to better understand the cultures they were submerged in.

As a result of this understanding and observation, the students felt especially drawn to the Roma people, which Sunberg says is a neglected subculture in most European countries. They spent time conducting VBS and camps among the Roma children.

“This group of people are so neglected and put off to the side. They just need love. And that's easy to do. We just show them love,” says Stephanie Sherwood, a two-year Trevecca alumna who is volunteering in Croatia.

Submerge is held every two years, with the first team having come in 2010.

With a focus on social justice, the students travelled to various areas where the Croatian population is responding positively to the Nazarene Church.

This summer's students processed their experiences through a class, taught by Trevecca professor and chaplain Tim Green, which incorporated their field work into the paradigm of the social justice issues faced in the biblical Church, such as those faced by the Old Testament prophets. **see “TREVECCA” • page 5**



Dave and Betsy Scott, missionaries in Croatia



City center, Zagreb, Croatia



Stephanie Sherwood, TNU volunteer

MNU EUROPE

from page 1

Over the course of two weeks, the students traveled to 10 different cities in Austria, France, Switzerland and Germany. During this time, the students were able to experience their classrooms without walls as they traveled to the places that correlated with what they were studying in their textbooks.

Though some of the students had had the privilege of traveling overseas before, this trip brought new exposure even to the well-traveled of the group. Time was given to the students to become acquainted with the cities and languages through personal expedition. In each city, they were given the opportunity to explore independently and learn through experience. Not only were they able to see the historical churches affected by the reformation, they were also able to visit local Nazarene community churches.

Kailene Cloud, an upcoming fourth year student at MNU, having traveled to Ghana in the summer of 2011, said after her two-week semester with MNU Europe, "America, Ghana, Europe are all unique in their own aspects. You can call them home, each place. Each one is beautiful."

On the first day the group arrived, the students, MNU faculty and sponsors accompanied by some EuNC faculty members, took a walk to Bergkirche St. Michael, a centuries old church in Büsingen. As American students, European faculty and Büsingen resident's voices united to fill the chapel with the a capella notes of traditional hymns, the moment was described as nothing less than, "powerful" by fourth year MidAmerica student, Chris Matsch.

This program seeks to unite diversity through experience and personal growth. As MidAmerica continues its program in the fall and spring semesters of this year, it is expected to not only involve the MidAmerica community, but also neighboring and international students.

"Not just MNU, but also European students are invited to come and students from all our sister universities and colleges as well," says Lorie Beckum, the MNU Europe director and previous Büsingen resident. As the partnership continues to blossom, the bridge between the continents and countries proceeds to strengthen. ♦



FRANCE



SWITZERLAND



AUSTRIA



MNU Europe students, professors and sponsors



GERMANY



Students of the MNU Europe summer trip studied for their classes at former EuNC campus.

To learn more visit <http://www.mnu.edu/mnu-europe.html>
Photos by Alyssa Beckum

Trevecca: Current volunteers help at dairy farm

from page 3

While Submerge lasts just two weeks, a secondary program, Immerse, involves students or alumni in an international mission experience from 12 weeks to more than a year.

Through Immerse, Sherwood and fellow alumnus Ben Ponder embraced the challenge to live in the city of Zagreb, Croatia, as Nazarene volunteers, establishing continuity between visits from the short-term Submerge teams.

Working alongside Dave and Betsy Scott, Nazarene missionaries to Croatia, Sherwood and Ponder spend half of their time in the village of Čakovec -- a small village about an hour from the city of Zagreb -- at a dairy farm where they assist the farmers with the intent to build relationships in that community.

This relational model has also been translated to the city. From her small flat in Zagreb, Sherwood spoke of their plan to meet and get to know youth by offering alternatives to the typical night life scene in the city. As a first step, the volunteers began to open their homes for people to simply come and hang out. "What we found is that they loved

it!" says Betsy Scott about the outreach. "They would text us every week asking, 'What're we doing this Thursday?' We would have up to 15 people in our home just getting to know each other and hanging out." The volunteers and missionaries in Croatia are living out a serving Church through means of relationship and love. "We are trying to seek out what the role of the Church of the Nazarene has in these villages," says Betsy. "How can we both come alongside with what people are already doing, but then ask, what are the needs that people aren't reaching and how can we help fulfill them?"

The first Trevecca alumni to join the field's efforts to relaunch the Church of the Nazarene in Croatia did so in 2011 through 365M, an intercultural studies program through Nazarene Theological Seminary. ♦

<http://www.ncnnews.com/nphweb/html/ncn/article.jsp?id=10009596>

The Skinners move to Budapest

June 2012 -- After serving in Ukraine for 17 years, the Skinners have moved to Budapest, Hungary to continue their ministry with the Church of the Nazarene.

Bob and Colleen Skinner have served as missionaries for over 22 years. Prior to their time in Ukraine, they served as missionaries in the Philippines from 1990-1994. They have three sons, Robby, Michael and Josh. Robby and Michael are currently back in the United States

for their university studies. Josh has moved with them to Budapest where he will continue his high school studies.

The Skinners will be responsible for supporting the work in the Baltic Connection of the Central Europe Field. The Baltic Connection includes the work of the Church of the Nazarene in Poland, Hungary, and the Scandinavia Districts. ♦

Serve: Padam ministers through social work

from page 2

Being part of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries fulfills his passion for social work and development.

In Nepal, malnourishment is an ongoing and widespread problem.

"Non-Nazarene churches also have been doing compassion work to some extent, but Church of the Nazarene must be the pioneer to accept it as institutional responsibility and as a part of its mission."

God has also blessed his family. Both of his sisters and one of his two brothers follow Christ. His father, aged 79, now supports Padam's faith and ministry even though he doesn't yet claim a personal relationship with Jesus.

"I have been praying a long time. I hope one day he will confess Jesus is the Savior." ♦

Related articles

Read more about Padam and NCM development in Nepal in *Engage* magazine. Click here.

<http://engagemagazine.com/content/nepal-helping-communities-find-solutions>

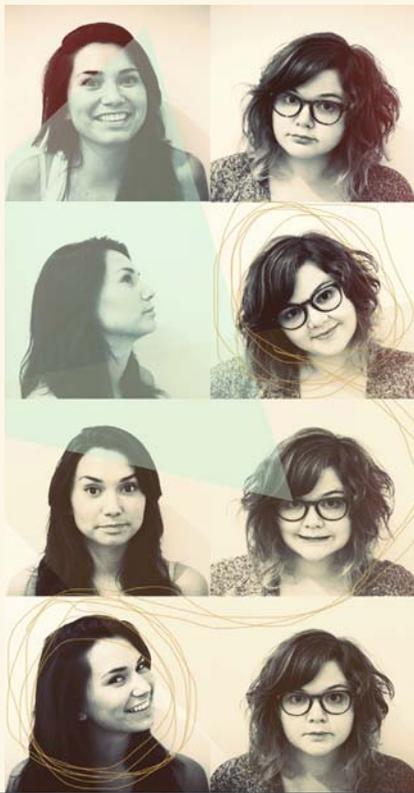
Read a related testimony of another Nazarene in Nepal on page 2 of the March "Where Worlds Meet."

About LDI

The Eurasia Region's Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) began in 2008 as a five-year plan to identify and equip 10 to 12 potential or emerging leaders on every district.

Events are designed to disciple the participants in servant leadership, regional mission strategy, and partner them in a two-year mentoring relationship with a mature leader.

To date, 340 protégés and 138 mentors region-wide have been through LDI training.



INTRODUCING
THE SUMMER VOLUNTEERS FOR
WHERE WORLDS MEET

BETH CROCKER
and
ALYSSA BECKUM

“Being able to help design and photograph for a newsletter that shares stories of the work our Creator is doing in the world has been a blessing. I’ve traveled to places I never thought I’d see and met amazing people with incredible stories. I would encourage anyone who has a love for hearing and sharing stories and a passion for exploring the world around us to volunteer.” - *Alyssa Beckum, volunteer, Northwest Nazarene University*

“Since I am going into my last year of college, it was the perfect time for me to do an internship and try something new. While writing articles isn’t necessarily in my field of study, I’ve been able to expand my horizons exponentially. Europe is filled with beauty and it has been a privilege to not only explore new lands, but connect with new people.” - *Beth Crocker, volunteer, MidAmerica Nazarene University*

This issue was designed and compiled by Alyssa and Beth

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Dennis Mohn, communications coordinator, at dmohn@eurasiaregion.org

Power of One ...it's here!



www.missionaleurasia.com



“No, O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to **do what is right**, to **love mercy**, and to **walk humbly with your God.**”
~ Micah 6:8 (NLV)

Upcoming Events

- 9-13 Jul • Hungary family camp
- 31 Jul-5 Aug • Eurasia NYI Congress, Chennai, India
- 6-11 Aug • Albania family camp
- 5-14 Aug • Germany PaXan youth team, Sri Lanka
- 6-15 Sep • Annual Global NCM coordinators' conference & training session for child development, Singapore
- 8-10 Oct • Second PoI conference, India
- 12-14 Oct • Reynolds Memorial Hospital 75th anniversary, Washim, India

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Prayer Requests

- Pray for the future students of MNU Europe and for the faculty and staff that will be working with the Eurasia Region, planning and organizing this program.
- Pray for Padam and the Nazarene Church in Nepal, that their work will continue to reach those in need.
- Pray for the Trevecca volunteers and the Scotts in Croatia - may the relationships they build with the people continue to grow in Christ.
- Pray for the upcoming regional NYC conference in India, 31 July to 5 August.
- Pray for visas to be granted, venue details to be concluded, and for the Holy Spirit to empower participants for holy living and leadership, and to respond to His work in their lives.
- 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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NAZARENE YOUTH CONFERENCE

Called¹ Christ² Community³ Cause⁴ Cxxxx⁵

A large, dark brown silhouette of a dome, likely representing a mosque or a similar religious structure, is centered in the middle of the page. It is flanked by two smaller, similar silhouettes, creating a sense of depth and architectural scale. The background of the entire page is a repeating pattern of small, light brown diamonds.

INDIA

31 JULY TO 5 AUGUST 2012

more info at eurasiannyi.org