

where WORLDS meet



the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia

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Lay Counseling training enters second year

By Rand Michael
Special to Eurasia Communications

The Middle East -- such a history, such on-going challenges on all levels -- personal, interpersonal, within churches and schools, among religious groups, within and between families, within and among tribes and nations. Overwhelming! What, if anything, can be done?

The Apostle Matthew recounts Jesus' twice using the image of the tiny mustard seed. In the first reference, Jesus likens the Kingdom of Heaven to a mustard seed, which, though very small, grows into an expansive tree in which birds gather for refuge (see Matthew 13:31-32). In the second reference, Jesus challenges His followers to believe even more in Him, in His work and in their roles with Him in that work: "Truly, I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:20-21, TNIV).

We are planting mustard seeds.

In August 2012, 18 people from the Middle East -- Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt -- convened for the second of three once-a-year intensive training experiences. The purpose is to become effective "people helpers," or lay counselors, who can bring some hope and healing to the Middle East.

These men and women range in age from late teens to a 60-plus year old -- diversity, but with a common concern: to bring hope and healing

see "COUNSEL" • page 5

Eurasia RD returns home to speak at poverty conference



Eurasia Region Director and Guatemala native Gustavo Crocker gives the keynote address in Guatemala City at the i58 conference from August 16 to 19. Photo courtesy Gustavo Crocker.

By NCN News

Guatemala City, Guatemala -- Leaders and representatives from Christian churches, the private sector, national media and dozens of non-governmental organizations gathered in Guatemala City from August 16 to 19 for the i58 conference. The keynote speaker, Guatemala native and Church of the Nazarene Eurasia Region Director Gustavo Crocker, challenged and inspired more than 400 national leaders to

eliminate extreme poverty.

Vicente Sanchez, pastor of one of the largest evangelical congregations in Guatemala, led the event. The i58 initiative, named to honor the call of Isaiah 58, was organized to mobilize the Church in Guatemala as a catalyst for transformation and hope.

"It is inconceivable that more than 65 percent of Guatemalans live in poverty, while we pride ourselves of being one of the most evangelized nations in Latin America," Sanchez said.

see "HOME" • page 7

'If you are real, show me!'

PURSUED BY GOD

By
Joelle Friesen
Eurasia Region
Communications

**YOUR STORY
OUR STORY
GOD'S STORY**



Frankfurt, Germany -- Helmut Warnstedt doesn't look how one might imagine the stereotypical stern-faced Stasi officer (secret police). He smiles too brightly and too genuinely. That may be because in 2003, when confronted with his previous life as an informer for the Stasi, he threw himself into the arms of Jesus and found freedom from the burdens of his past.

Today, Warnstedt is a lay leader in the Bonames Church of the Nazarene, in a part of Frankfurt, Germany, and is a theology student in European Nazarene College's distance learning program.

At 17, Helmut Warnstedt was a rebel in the truest sense of the word. From 1969 to 1970, he frequently wired anonymous messages critical of the government to the local radio station in western Berlin. The Stasi intercepted every single one.

The Stasi discovered his identity by comparing samples of his handwriting.

At 8 o'clock one morning, two Stasi officers appeared on his family's doorstep and took Warnstedt into custody.

The teenager was too young to serve time in prison. The officer decided that the very qualities which made the boy a formidable opponent could be leveraged in service to the Stasi.

The officer threatened to make a house search unless he joined their ranks. Helmut was furious. With his father, mother, two brothers and his sister in his thoughts, he agreed to the Stasi's terms.

Helmut was to begin work immediately as a ticket master on the fast trains in and out of Berlin. He was to report any suspicious activity aboard the trains. If a passenger seemed to be scouting for information on military objects, he was to report immediately. He was instructed to spy for hints of conspiracy, whether on the train or in

Two of his fellow soldiers taught him what it meant to be "born again." He had never heard of this before. He remembers a feeling deep inside that seemed to say, "These men and their story are talking to me. I should change."

the cafés of stations around the country. He would watch colleagues and strangers alike. No one was beyond monitoring.

Once a vocal critic, Helmut became the eyes and the ears of the Stasi – albeit only under coercion.

Still rebellious, Helmut deliberately ignored "suspicious passengers." He would report small bits of unimportant information, omitting anything incriminating. Theoretically, Helmut was

working undercover... against the Stasi.

During his military service, Warnstedt become close to an officer he believed was a good friend. Later he discovered the other man was a member of the Stasi who had been ordered to spy on Helmut.

Surrounded by false friends, Helmut turned to some Christians in his military regiment, to which he'd been transferred in 1971. In them he found his first true exposure to Christ.

Helmut's mother had been Catholic while his father practiced no religion at all. Two of his fellow soldiers taught him what it meant to be "born again." He had never heard of this before. He remembers a feeling deep inside that seemed to say, "These men and their story are talking to me. I should change." He realized that his lifestyle, even before his service to the Stasi, was coming to an end.

While he watched and waited for a way out of the secret police, he spent the evenings in the barracks reading a New Testament. First, he wanted to know who wrote this book, the philosophy within, and what the life of a Christian entailed. Second, in his heart he suspected the power of that book was the same power to release him from the Stasi.

POLICE: 'I have been found to God'

from page 2

One day on patrol in 1972, Helmut brought the New Testament along. The patrol set out in pairs, and while one in each pair remained watchful, the other would rest. As his comrade slept in the shade, Helmut paged through Romans. He stopped at chapter 15, verse 9: "and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: 'Therefore I will praise you among the

While he watched and waited for a way out of the secret police, he spent the evenings in the barracks reading a New Testament.

Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name.'" Helmut felt his heart explode in recognition. The Scripture meant him!

He murmured, "If you are the true God – if you are real – then show me now, this very minute. I must know! Is God really here, and am I on the right way?"

Helmut sat in silence. The wind blew through the trees, the birds flew through the air, and his comrade stirred in his sleep. Nothing.

Pacing the area, he wandered over to a small tree and, feeling fidgety, he peeled bark from its trunk. As he fingered the branch, he noticed a slight irregularity in the texture. He peered closer at the symbol formed in the bark: a cross, of the clearest proportions.

"God is real!" he shouted inwardly. God had answered. Now, what would Helmut's answer be?

Meanwhile, relationships with the Christians at his Catholic Church had grown stronger. Although not yet a believer, Helmut eventually became comfortable enough with the youth pastor to share his desperation to leave the Stasi. The pastor said if anyone could help, it would be the bishop.

He obtained a meeting with the bishop, and explained his complications with the Stasi. The bishop encouraged him, giving him courage to face his commanding officer.

Helmut visited his leading officer at a secret meeting place and declared his resignation. Enraged, the officer shouted, "The papers and documents forbid it! What? Do you write your own religion now?" He threatened to arrest and imprison the young man.

Wrapped in an unusual sense of peace and strength that he knew came from God, Helmut replied, "I am a Christian. I can leave. And I am going to." Then he turned and walked away on shaking legs, with Romans 8:31 coming to his mind: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Six weeks later, Helmut gave his life to Christ. Always looking over his shoulder for fear of the Stasi's revenge, Helmut went about his life until the official end of the DDR (German Democratic Republic) in 1990. The revenge never came.

He met and married his wife. She knew about his previous involvement with the Stasi, but for 30 years they did not speak of it.

As the years passed, Helmut's relationship with Christ began to fade. In 1995 he shied away from attending church services. His family was aware of his growing disinterest, although he never told them explicitly.

In 1998, when Helmut moved to Frankfurt for a job ahead of his family, he began searching for a church for them to attend. He noticed the Frankfurt Church of the Nazarene, and recommended it to his wife. In 2000, his wife and daughter began attending the church and got to know the pastor then, Rev. Hans-Jürgen Zimmermann. Later their adult son also joined them. There they accepted Christ, were baptized and became church members.

They wanted Helmut to share their new joy in Jesus, but he came with them rarely. He didn't want to hear about God, and kept his distance.

In January of 2003, an exhibition came to Frankfurt displaying the documents of the DDR during the Cold War. On the exhibition's last day, Helmut decided to see it. Out of the 200,000 people that had ever worked for the Stasi, the exhibition featured the stories and copies of documents about three individuals.

He recognized the wording in one of the documents – it was his.

Further documents showed him for the first time how the Stasi had monitored the mailbox to which he wrote those critical letters, all those years ago.

Unknown to him, in 1973 his leading officer had written an account to his bosses of the last meeting between him and Helmut, in which Helmut ended his service to the Stasi. This account was shown in the exhibition.

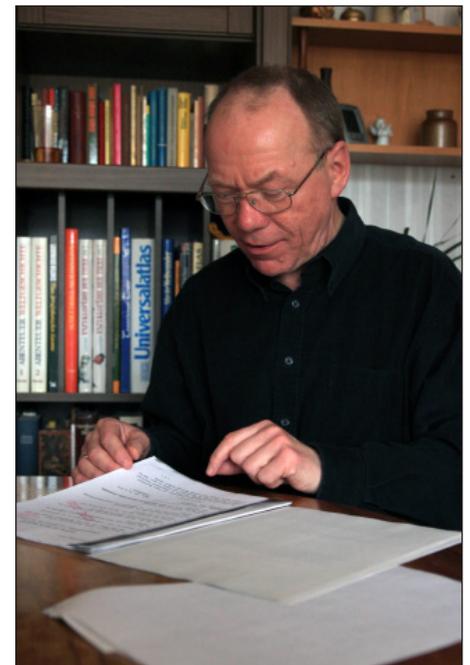
Posted on the placard were copies of his telegrams, the reports by the other agent who spied on him, and memos between officers debating whether to arrest him after his resignation. It was all there.

Other visitors passed around Helmut as his breath caught in his chest. For an entire half hour his eyes ran over and over this account, which contained his words from 30 years before: "I have been found to God." He knew his run from God was over. While he had avoided church, God had come to him. He was being given a second chance.

He jumped on the train and headed straight to the Church of the Nazarene, knocking on the door just as Pastor Zimmerman was preparing a sermon. That day Helmut gave his life to Christ for the second and final time.

In 2009, Helmut found the contact information for his old commanding officer, and felt God leading him to contact the man. He called, but before he could introduce himself, the officer recognized his voice. They agreed to meet

see "HELMUT" • page 4



Helmut Warnstedt is a lay leader in the Bonames Church of the Nazarene, in Frankfurt, Germany, and is a student in European Nazarene College's distance learning program. Photo courtesy Gina Pottenger..

HELMUT: Meeting his former boss

from page 3

at a restaurant, where they shared a long conversation. Helmut told his story from the day he left the Stasi to the moment he found Christ at the exhibit.

He gave a copy of the New Testament

to his commanding officer with a short inscription written in the front cover.

The officer slid his hand over the cover and said, "It is all over, and there is nothing left... but I will take this as a

memory. Will you pray for me?"

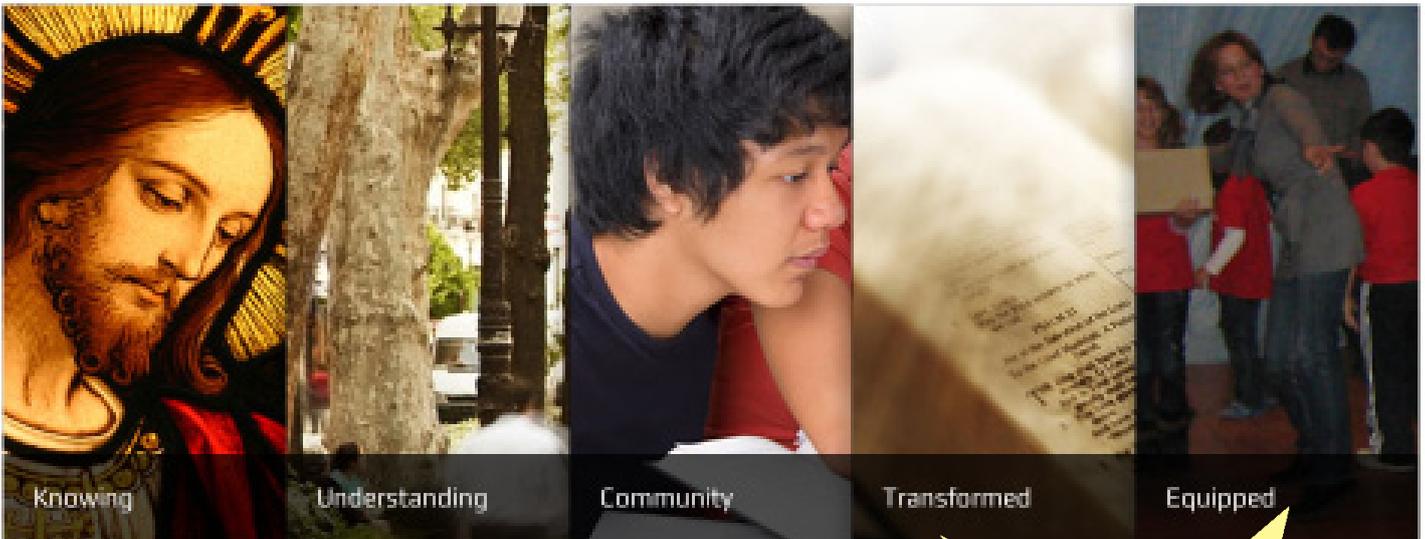
Helmut is actively involved in the Bonames church, where he sometimes preaches, other times leads the service, and holds a local preacher's license. ♦

European Nazarene College

English

HOME ABOUT EUINC ACADEMICS NEWSLETTER CONTACT US

Leadership Conference 2013 - Making a Difference



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/>.

COUNSEL: Students will train others to listen

from page 1

to those around them in any and every way they can. The source: the love of Christ. The desire: to show the healing love of Christ through the healing power of listening.

The multi-day intensive training combines lectures, demonstrations and actual practice of core listening skills along with an understanding of persons and healing from an informed study of people that is grounded in Biblical principles and truth. In addition, participants receive counseling and consultation for their own growth and development.

A main objective was to identify participants who will become trainers in the future; seven participants were selected in this cohort, said Rod Green, NCM Coordinator for the Eastern Mediterranean Field.

“This year we covered stress and trauma as well as human development. We also learned how prayer can prepare our hearts to deal with the root causes of an event in the past which is a source of trauma in the present,” Green said. “We learned that crisis can be a time where we either move towards dysfunction or move towards strength and growth.”

As one person described the training: “It is an integrated, well-rounded process in which we work on real issues in our own lives while learning to help others.” The participant* added that he was very impressed that without a degree being offered and no grades being issued, everyone has been highly motivated and eagerly involved. “The training is so practical with participants using the training right away in their churches and communities.”

A consistent testimony of all the students is represented by one who teaches in a Nazarene school: “I am using



In August 2012, 18 people from Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt convened for the second of three once-a-year multi-day, intensive training experiences. The purpose is to become effective “people helpers,” or lay counselors, who can bring some hope and healing to the Middle East. *Photos courtesy Michael Rand.*

the skills and understandings of persons and relationships in my teaching, with my colleagues, with the parents of my students, in my home with my husband and children. There is such a positive difference.”

Another educator-administrator tells of deciding to listen more to the parents of her students and describes the profound difference it is making. One woman called her back to thank her for listening and caring. This same participant also tells of using the training to listen to her brother who has been wandering from Jesus. The result of her listening to him: he is beginning to talk with her and share his concerns and questions. She also talked about developing a forgiving spirit toward those groups and nations that have terrorized and abused the people of her country over the decades.

Another participant tells of using the training in the secular school in which he has been working. In the midst of staff who were complaining about one another, he listened without taking sides and then the various parties said, “Thank you for listening and keeping confidences... and not taking sides... You are a person we can trust and we know it is because of your religion.” This is significant feedback, not just regarding the training but because the student was embodying a caring expression of his Christian faith rather than an argumentative, divisive expression.

One participant shared how he is being transformed from thinking and

acting “tribally” and beginning to think and act first and foremost as a citizen of God’s Kingdom and an ambassador Christ.

The training team, which I led with my wife Phyllis Michael through our ministry, TELOS international, inc., also included Tom and Karen Gray of Chester, Maryland (former missionaries to the Middle East), along with Janet Taylor of Oregon and Elise Chaffee of Montana.

And regarding the mustard seed: the participants and the training team are acting on faith, trusting God to increase their faith and to also increase the Kingdom and its influence through them, to help bring hope and healing to the Middle East. They know that they are only a few and that there are many others who are also called of God to share in this missional ministry. The participants express gratitude for being among God’s co-workers in this mustard seed calling.

All these people — participants and training team alike — are deeply thankful to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) for the sharing in the vision and the support. Without NCM this mustard seed mission would not be possible.

• *Names of participants withheld for security and confidentiality.*

— *Rand and Phyllis Michael founded and direct TELOS International, Inc., which provides credentialed Christian counselors and training to underserved communities around the world. Rand Michael is associate professor and director of the Marriage, Couple and Family Therapy Program at George Fox University, and is a Licensed Marriage and*



The training combines lectures, demonstrations, and actual practice of core listening skills. Participants receive counseling and consultation for their own growth and development.

Sports draws 250 children in Jordan

The Nazarene Church in Jordan hosted a six-week sports ministry in September that saw more than 250 children attend. The church rented many kids' games to reach out to the local communities. The program includes biblical lessons, games and drama. At the end, they will meet with 18 churches and some schools.



The Nazarene Church in Jordan used kids' games to reach out to children in the local community. Many children stayed from 2:30 until 7 p.m. and did not want to leave at the end.





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.

HOME: Regional director honored by Alma Mater

from page 1

“Therefore, it is a privilege to know that one of our own, a child of the Church and a child of this homeland, can challenge us with a prophetic voice that can teach and mobilize the Church to do what followers of Christ, like John Wesley, have done throughout our history to bring about transformation in our societies,” Sanchez added when introducing Crocker.

Crocker challenged the leaders of his homeland to see the possibilities that unity, optimism and a true commitment to the transforming message of Christ could bring to a nation.

“The biggest tragedy of poor nations is that their citizens have grown accustomed to poverty, abuse and crime, as if they were part of their everyday life,” Crocker said. “They don’t remember that they have been created to God’s image and that they all deserve to experience abundant life. It is there where the

Church plays a significant role in bringing about hope and transformation.”

Prensa Libre, the main national newspaper, interviewed Crocker for a full-page article in their Sunday, August 19, edition. The article explored his views

“The biggest tragedy of poor nations is that their citizens have grown accustomed to poverty, abuse and crime, as if they were part of their everyday life.”

~ Gustavo Crocker

and recommendations for the Church, the private sector, and the government as they work together to reduce poverty “in the name of Christ.”

The Mariano Galvez University of Guatemala, the nation’s first evangelical university and Crocker’s alma mater, honored him with the Medal of Academic Excellence as a distinguished alumni of the school.

Victor Hernandez, dean of the School

of Architecture and member of the university’s directory, spoke on behalf of the university’s board of directors.

“The school and the nation are challenged by the journey that God has allowed Crocker to travel, from the small village in the north of the country, to the opportunity to challenge his nation and other parts of the world to live a gospel in word and deed,” he said.

Gustavo’s wife, Rachel, was also given the opportunity to present Gustavo with the Distinguished Alumnus Award in recognition for his ministry and leadership on behalf of the school and the church.

“It was a humbling privilege to return to my country and to challenge my own people to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those whom we call our brothers and sisters,” Gustavo said. “I pray that each believer in Guatemala owns and acts on the prophet Micah’s call to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God.” ♦

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



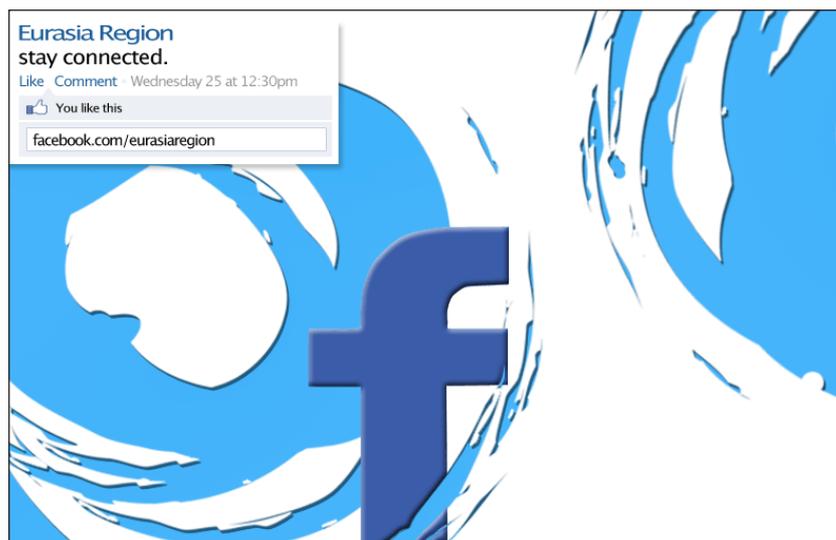
*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”
~ Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*

Upcoming Events

- 8-10 Oct • Field communication training, Second PoI conference, India
- 12-14 Oct • Reynolds Memorial Hospital 75th anniversary, Washim, India

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Prayer Requests

- Pray for the lay counseling participants from Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. Pray that they will trust God to increase their faith and to also increase the Kingdom and its influence through them, to help bring hope and healing to the Middle East.
- Pray for Helmut Warnstedt and his ministry in the Bonames church in Germany, where he is a lay leader.
- Pray for the Nazarene church in Jordan as they continue their outreach to local children and their communities,
- Pray that each believer in the Church of the Nazarene will be challenged to be the hands and feet of Jesus and that they will act on the prophet Micah’s call to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God.
- 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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**Transforming Our World:
In Christ • Like Christ • For Christ**

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