



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
EURASIA

subscribe www.eurasiaregion.org



Former missionary to Eurasia elected general superintendent

Carla Sunberg, who grew up in Germany and served as missionary in Russia, was elected, along with Filimao Chambo, regional director of Africa.

4

'I'm ready to serve'

Refugee from Syria finally understood who Jesus is after visiting a Nazarene church in Lebanon.

10



Nazarenes represent Eurasia at General Assembly sites

Eurasians gathered in Indianapolis, U.S., Manchester, U.K., and Hyderabad, India

6

A man and a woman are sitting on a large, weathered wooden log that has been repurposed as a bench. They are positioned on a dirt path overlooking a vast, rugged desert canyon. The canyon walls are composed of layered, reddish-brown rock formations, with some vertical rock spires and ledges. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic, capturing a moment of quiet reflection in a natural setting.

Letter from the Regional Director

Reflections on General Assembly

Last week, all of the regional office staff sat down together for our first post-General Assembly meeting. It is almost like a wedding day: months of preparation for one single event. Then once the day is over you ask yourself “Where did all these hectic activities go?” But as you start sharing with one another and remembering, you get a sense of the impact and the beauty of the event.

The people of Israel, in Exodus 19:16-17, were called together to listen to the Lord, and to be affirmed in their identity as people of God: “This is who you are as a community and as a body.” The denomination’s quadrennial General Assembly, which gathers as many as 20,000 Nazarenes for a week of worship, fellowship and business, is meant to do the same. So, listen with me to the mosaic of highlights that the Eurasia staff carried with them in their hearts.

The first one shared: “For me the highlight was the sense of unity. In several key moments, there was a coming together of the global church. It seemed that in electing our two new general superintendents that delegates from north and south, east and west wanted to be of one mind very quickly, accepting the need to have broad representation.”

Becoming a truly international church – one body, one Lord, one faith – is a real challenge. How can I really

make the burden of my brothers and sisters elsewhere also my burden, even when it is no issue at all for where I live? By bridging these cultural differences by calls for a deep surrender to the Lord and to my brothers and sisters.

Personally, I saw this unity put into practice when we dealt with several complicated resolutions on articles of faith, Christian conduct and contemporary issues. I do not recall a General Assembly where as many international delegates addressed the assembly. We listened to district superintendents, but also doctors, a psychiatrist, lawyers and judges from all over the world. The high-quality input reflects the maturing Church of the Nazarene around the globe.

Another shared how this assembly provided opportunity to translate the Study Map for the Nazarene Articles of Faith (www.studymaps.org), created by Stéphane Tibi, now the region’s education coordinator, into an additional 16 languages. What an accomplishment! For our region, with its dozens of languages, having indigenous holiness resources available to all hinges on translations.

One of our team members was profoundly moved by the 20th anniversary of the JESUS Film Harvest Partners ministry. Eurasia Region, especially, has seen an incredible response to the gospel presentation on film. Of the nearly 300,000 Nazarenes in India and South Asia, many found Christ through the JESUS Film and the follow-up by the film teams.

see “UNITY” • page 3

UNITY: Local church has essential role

continued from page 2

"In these 20 years, we were told that, globally, 15 million people made a decision for Christ in response to seeing the *JESUS* film."

As I listened, I thought, "What an urgent prayer request this brings with it. It is so different from what we deal with in Europe. How do we pray and support our churches in India and South Asia to adequately disciple these many new believers? How do we respond to the growing opposition in some areas to the gospel and public evangelism meetings?"

The Eurasia presentation during the NMI convention on June 23 sought to draw the delegates into the needs, challenges and opportunities of our region. In a blended, 20-minute multi-media

In the Kingdom of God, important steps have small, but significant, beginnings. Somehow that last comment took us all back to the essential role of the local church, where people hear and respond to the full Gospel, love and care for one another and for the town or city they live in. Seeds are sown and mature in the fellowships where we can look each other in the eyes, eat

and pray together, and put a hand around one another's shoulder in the name of Christ.

In other words: The wedding celebration is over, back to normal life!

-- Arthur Snijders
Eurasia Regional Director

"In the Kingdom of God, important steps have small but significant, beginnings."

presentation we shared through videos, readings, prayer songs and stories how the church-in-mission is engaged in the challenges of refugees, secularisation and poverty. (Soon you will be able to watch the presentation online on www.eurasiaregion.org).

One by one we shared our highlights of where we had seen the Lord at work and speaking to us. I thought we were done and that everyone who was at the assembly had spoken. Then one other German woman said, "I want to say something as well. I watched the General Assembly online. And I saw that Carla Sunberg was elected. And I was so proud: as a child, she was part of the Sunday School class I taught at that time. I want to thank the Lord for this as well." (See story on page 4.)





Watch the installation service
for Sunberg and Chambo:
<http://tiny.cc/vlgcmy>

Global church

Church of the Nazarene elects two new general superintendents

Filimao M. Chambo and Carla D. Sunberg were installed as the Church of the Nazarene's 42nd and 43rd general superintendents, respectively, Thursday night at General Assembly.

Chambo, director of the denomination's Africa Region, was elected to the Board of General Superintendents June 26. Sunberg, a former missionary serving as president of Nazarene Theological Seminary, was elected June 27.

They join current BGS members Eugénio R. Duarte, David W. Graves, David A. Busic, and Gustavo A. Crocker to make up the Board for the next quadrennium, 2017-2021. Retiring members Jerry D. Porter and J. K. Warrick participated in the installation service.

Carla Sunberg

President of Nazarene Theological Seminary, Carla Sunberg was elected on the 11th ballot at the 29th General Assembly in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.

"Dear church family," she began after a lengthy ovation. "I am completely overwhelmed today. Thank you so much for believing that God might be able to use me in this kind of a capacity. I am simply God's child, and I am a child of this global church. You are the ones who raised me up, and I say thank you."

Sunberg, who was born in Germany and raised on the mission field, thanked her German church family – in German – before switching to Russian to thank her Russian church family. Carla and her husband, Chuck, served as missionaries to the former Soviet Union.

"Thank you to my brothers and sisters in the former Soviet Union," she said. "It was a privilege when I was ordained with all of you; and may God bless you all!"

Sunberg was ordained in the Church of the Nazarene in 2004 in Moscow on the Russia North District. She and Chuck were pioneer missionaries for the denomination, living in Moscow for 13 years. She served as director of compassionate ministries there and later as director of theological education on the Commonwealth of Independent States Field.

In 2005, the Sunbergs returned to the U.S. and pastored at Grace Point Church of the Nazarene in

[see "ELECT" • page 5](#)

ELECT: Sunberg was raised in Germany in a missionary family, later served in Russia

Continued from page 4

Fort Wayne, Indiana, where Carla served as pastor of evangelism and discipleship. In 2011, she and Chuck accepted a call to serve as co-district superintendents for East Ohio.

Carla is the second woman general superintendent in the denomination's history, joining Nina G. Gunter, who gave Tuesday's morning devotional to the assembly.

"As a little girl, my only desire was to follow and serve Jesus," Carla said. "And I have to confess to you as I grew up in the church, I didn't know if there would ever be a formal way for me to do so. A little bit later in life, my dear, sweet husband said to me, 'If only you were a boy, you would have been the preacher in the family.' And that day, the voice of the Lord said, 'And why aren't you?'"

"And so my dear sisters," she continued, "God has raised up sons and daughters to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. I am honored."

Sunberg, who was elected president of NTS in 2014, said she and Chuck had been praying in advance of General Assembly "should this day (the election) ever come."

"Recently the Lord said to us, 'You must be willing to be willing,' and so, I stand before you today willing and committed to humbly serve my church."

Carla, who is the daughter of former general superintendent Jerald D. Johnson (1980-1997), thanked her father from the podium, wishing he could have been in Indianapolis.

Carla is the first second-generation general superintendent.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from MidAmerica Nazarene University, a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Nazarene Theological Seminary, and a Doctor

of Philosophy in Historical Theology from the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. In May 2012, Carla was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Olivet Nazarene University.

Chuck and Carla have two adult daughters, Christa (Maciver) and Cara (Shonamon).

Filimao Chambo

Chambo, who is from Mozambique and lives in South Africa, addressed the assembly after his election June 26.

"As a child, I sensed in one of my conversations with the Lord that he was calling me into full-time ministry," he said. "My response to the Lord was 'no, this will not happen ... if you really need to call someone, call my brothers or my sister.'"

Chambo, born in a Nazarene hospital to parents who were both pastors, shared that he attended a youth camp where a missionary couple prayed God would call young people into the ministry. It was at that camp Chambo again heard God's call to be a minister.

"I said, 'Lord, I really thought that we settled this many years ago.' But I'm glad that in that youth camp I said yes to the Lord," he said.

In college, Chambo said he sensed God was calling him to a ministry beyond just one location.

"It was clear that God was calling me to be available to serve His people around the world," he said. "One thing that I know is that when God calls, it's not just a one moment call. He continuously calls us every day, every moment, for whatever He wants us to be a part of.

"As I stand here before you today,

I stand as a servant of God who has been equipped by the church, transformed by God, willing to continuously surrender his life to be a servant.

"My prayer was if it is of God, it will give me peace," he continued. "So, I stand before you and say 'yes, I accept to serve you.'"

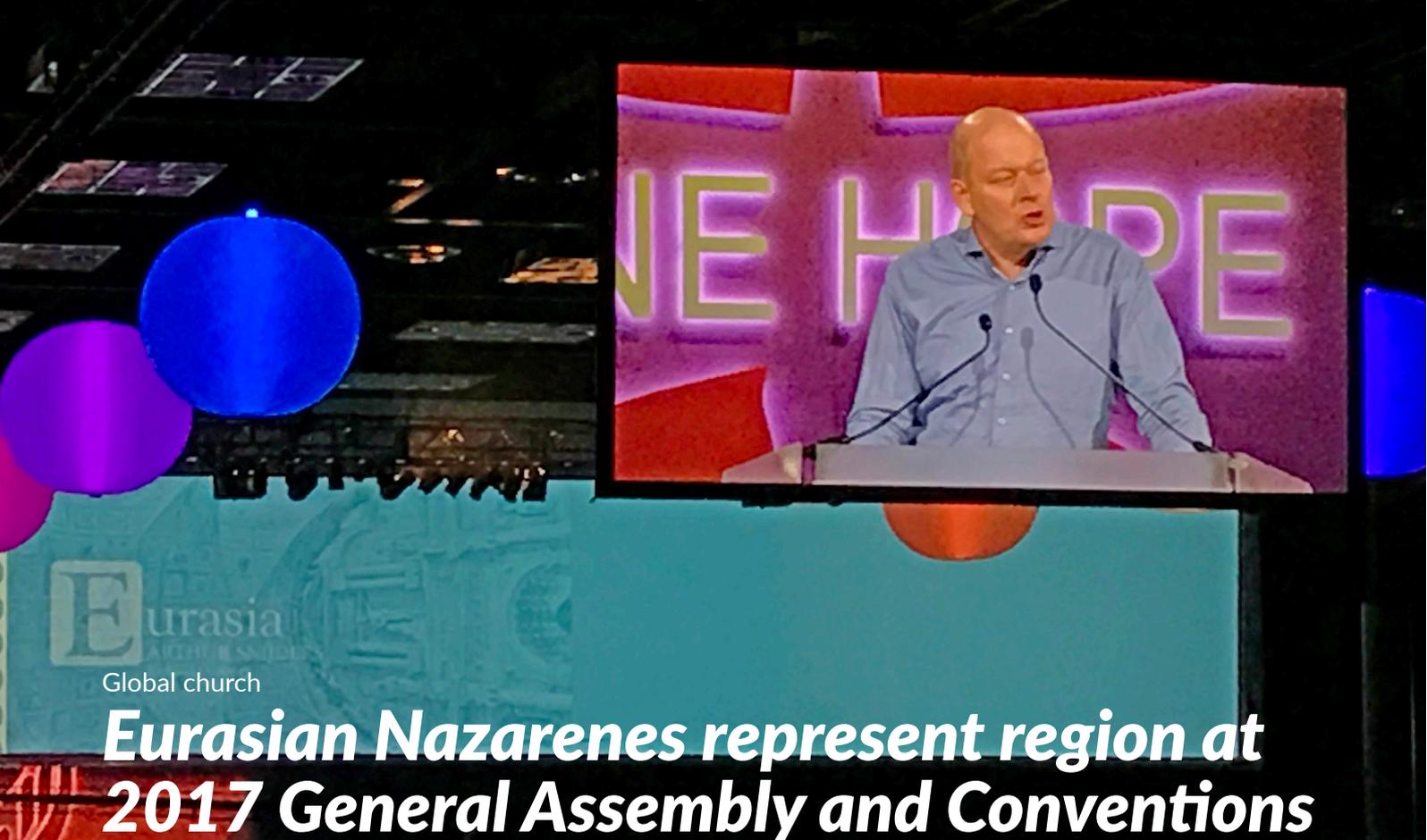
Chambo completed a diploma in theology at Seminario Nazareno em Mozambique, a Bachelor of Theology at Nazarene Theological College in South Africa, a master's in biblical studies at the University of Johannesburg, and his Ph.D. in biblical studies at the same university. He was ordained in 1999. Chambo speaks several African languages in addition to English and Portuguese. He has served in many leadership roles, including pastor, teacher, and principal.

Filimao and Samantha Chambo have a daughter, Tsakani, and a son, Emanuel. □

-- Reprinted from Nazarene news, www.nazarene.org.

Watch Carla Sunberg's election: <http://tiny.cc/ungcmcy>

Watch Filimao Chambo's election: <http://tiny.cc/5mgcmcy>



Global church

Eurasian Nazarenes represent region at 2017 General Assembly and Conventions

Refugees. Secularism.
Poverty.

On June 23, Regional Director Arthur Snijders shared stories of how local churches across Eurasia are rising to meet these challenges through the love of Christ when he presented before the Global NMI Convention at the 2017 General Assembly and Conventions in Indianapolis, U.S.

It was among numerous moments throughout June 21-30 when Eurasians represented the region to our global church family.

Before the presentation, Joseph Chalhoub, NMI president for the Lebanon District, prayed for the convention. Vocalists, musicians and dramatic readers included representation from British Isles North, Germany, Jordan and the regional office. Philip Weatherill, of British Isles South and the

elected Global NMI President, helped to lead the convention.

General Assembly is held every four years, gathering as many as 20,000 Nazarenes from around the world to worship God, celebrate unity amid diversity, and to conduct the business of the church, including electing two new general superintendents (see story page 4).

This quadrennium, Nazarenes gathered simultaneously in 10 locations around the world, worshipping, discussing and voting via live satellite feeds -- all around the theme of "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope, One Lord, One Faith."

International fellowship was a highlight for many, including Daniel Fink, district superintendent for the Italy District, who said he enjoyed, "meeting old friends and new ones, pastors and missionaries from all regions and the strong sense of fellowship, love and unity."

It also gives a "glimpse of our global Nazarene family and seeing that the beauty of our church is determined by the diversity and the strength that each region contributes into it," he added.

For Dalia Matijević, of Croatia, who attended General Assembly for the first time, it was the opportunity for greater understanding of the global church she is part of.

Watch short interviews with Eurasians at General Assembly, talking about the challenges of secularism, poverty and refugees: <https://vimeo.com/eurasia>

see "GA" • page 7

GA: ‘Encouraging’

Continued from page 6

“I was thrilled to discover the whole church body is functionally connected and sensitive about what is going on the other parts of the world,” she said. “Having access to different perspectives, circumstances and understandings on the same topic: ‘How to make my church more Holy Spirit-driven, more God-oriented, more socially relevant, and more holy,’ was immensely exciting, encouraging, and a useful experience for me.”

In Indianapolis, the Eurasia part of the Nazarene Global Mission exhibit displayed facades to represent different ministries and cultures in Eurasia. Missionaries and national leaders gathered in the exhibit each day to meet and greet other Nazarenes interested in learning more about what God is doing in Eurasia, and how they can be involved.

Many people from other world areas enjoyed coming to the exhibit to see friends, to pick up information, and try on traditional clothes from different Eurasian cultures.

In Eurasia, Hyderabad, India, and Manchester, England, hosted simultaneous Nazarene Youth International (NYI) and Sunday School and Discipleship International (SDMI) conventions where more than 300 people in total participated in the global conventions.

Wouter van der Zeijden, of the Netherlands, compared his experience at the 2013 NYI convention in the USA to this summer’s smaller site in Manchester, U.K.

“It exceeded all my expectations. The intimate atmosphere doubled my enthusiasm! It was like attending an NYC with a combination of business, worship, lots of games and great fellowship with about 150 people all over the Eurasia region.”

Of the NYI gathering in India, Oshan Isemouth, of Sri Lanka, said, “My favorite moment in the whole event was when we did a cultural dinner and everybody offered something from their country. It was one magical moment to see Nazarenes cook and share food -- I think food is the 6th love language.”

Representatives for CIS and South Asia made time for meetings and fellowship

see “VOTE” • page 9



Top: Antonie Holleman, a delegate to the General Assembly from the Netherlands District, made a comment during the business meetings. Photo credit: Nazarene.org

Center: Delegates and visitors in Hyderabad gathered for a group photo. Photo credit: Oshan Isemouth.

Below: Sarah Dandge and Joyce Jothi (India) helped women visitors to the Eurasia exhibit learn how to wear a South Asian sari.





Above: More than 60 delegates and nearly 100 visitors gathered at Nazarene Theological College, Manchester, U.K., June 21-23 to participate in the global NYI convention. The youth also partnered with eight local Nazarene churches on mission projects across the UK. Photo credit: Michelle Sowerby.

Right: About 100 delegates and visitors gathered in Hyderabad, India, June 21-23 to participate in the Global NYI Convention. Photo credit: Robbie Shreffler.



Below: The Eurasia section of the Global Mission exhibit in Indianapolis was a popular gathering place.



VOTE: Nazarenes gave \$100,000 for refugee support

Continued from page 7

with people who have been partnering to support the growth and development of the church in these fields.

During the second week, delegates participated in committee meetings, discussed and voted on amendments and resolutions.

To read summaries of the resolutions that were passed each day, visit <http://nazarene.org/article->

posted/general-assembly

Offerings were received during each of the event's five worship services, both online at Nazarene.org/give-ga and in person. As a result of global Nazarenes' generosity, more than US\$100,000 will be donated to Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) for refugee support.

2017 General Assembly and Conventions have ended, but

the memories, relationships and decisions will carry forward until the next gathering.

"I will share my experiences with every local church of the district and with all our leaders," Fink said. "I want to encourage them to keep engaged with the global mission of the church. We are a giving and sending church." □

Page 13: Read names of newly elected members of the Regional Advisory Council and Eurasia members of the denomination's General Board.



Attend a training!

- August 4-6, Dordrecht, Netherlands
- October 6-8, Irpin, Ukraine
- January 12-14, Northern Europe

Save your place: eurasiaregion.org/volunteers/events/

Is God calling you?

Become a missionary in the Eurasia Region!

Find out more and apply now:

To explore your call or train for missionary assignment, visit the website.

www.eurasiaregion.org/volunteers

Testimony

'I'm ready to serve'

A Syrian refugee flees to Lebanon, where he discovers Christ through a Nazarene church.



By Gina Grate Pottenger

Growing up on a family farm in Syria where Naseef helped his parents toil in the fields under the hot sun, Naseef dreamed of a different life. Someday, he told himself, he would become finance manager in a corporation.

Back then, many Syrians could pursue their dreams, and Naseef was well on the way to realizing his own when he enrolled at university to study his passion: economics.

But the Syrian civil war broke out in 2011 and shattered his dream.

The Syrian government had begun drafting young university men into

the army to fight opposition forces. However, they did not draft men who failed in their studies. Some students deliberately failed for two years to avoid government military service.

Naseef came from a small Christian village, and he did not want to be part of the war, so he purposely failed out of university. It was a painful decision.

"I love economics," he said.

Naseef took a job in a small glass shop and rejoined his family with their farm work.

The war came to Naseef's area of Syria in 2013. The government sent about 200 troops to fight the opposition forces, and the village showed them hospitality. Naseef's family took 10 of the young soldiers into their house, fed them, and they became friends. They exchanged contact information so they could stay in touch on their mobile

see "SERVE" • page 11

SERVE: Raised a Christian, Naseef was ignorant about Jesus until he attended church in Beirut

Continued from page 10

devices.

After the soldiers moved on to another area where the fighting was more intense, Naseef and his neighbors could not get any responses from their new friends. Later they learned the horrifying news: all the soldiers had been massacred in an ambush.

Similar stories reached them concerning other troop massacres. Rumors and fears circulated about traitors.

That's why many young Syrian men are so afraid to join the military that they flee the country, Naseef said.

"It's not like I'm fighting for my country. I'm going to die because of the traitors."

Naseef's family decided to send him to Lebanon to save his life. He moved into a house with other refugee friends near the Beirut Church of the Nazarene. One day, Naseef was invited by a friend to the church. The people warmly welcomed him. Fascinated by the teachings, he began attending regularly.

Naseef was raised in another denomination. To Naseef, his family and his village, going to church was simply a religious practice.

"In our village, even the priests do not know much about Jesus, like how many years He lived on the earth. Many people living there in the village do not know about Jesus. So I got to know Jesus in the church," he said.

Hungry to know Jesus personally, he began reading his Bible every day.

"I learned more and more in the church... and I asked Pastor Andrew to get baptized," he said.

see "BAPTIZE" • page 12

"In our village, even the priests do not know much about Jesus, like how many years did He live on the earth; and many people living there in the village do not know about Jesus. So I got to know Jesus in the [Beirut] church."

- Naseef

Agape Table

Several days a week, the Beirut Church of the Nazarene cooks and serves hot meals to about 80 disabled and elderly people who live in the area.

The church also provides weekday education to a number of refugee children who haven't yet qualified to attend Lebanese schools, and Agape Table feeds them, too.

Read the story at: <http://www.eurasiaregion.org/achrafiehs-agape-table/>

To help support this and other Nazarene schools that are assisting refugees, visit:

<http://ps.ncm.org/project-page.php?project=acm1245>

To support Nazarene churches who are helping refugees and their families, visit:

<http://ps.ncm.org/project-page.php?project=acm1645>



BAPTIZE: Naseef volunteers at the church

Continued from page 11

“One day he shared with me how he woke up and experienced a wonderful joy in his heart, and he knew that the Lord has touched his heart, and he is God’s son now,” said Pastor Andrew. “He reads the Bible faithfully and knows verses by heart. He witnesses to his Syrian friends through Facebook, and he is helping us now with the follow-up of the Syrians who come to the church.”

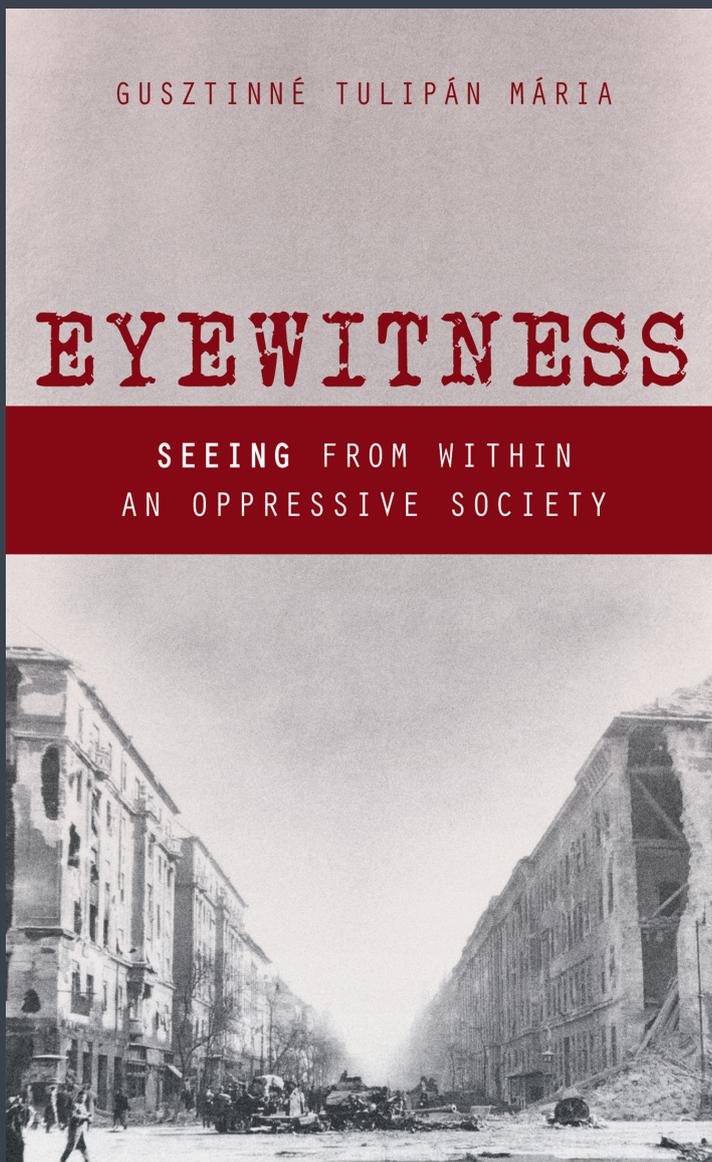
Naseef joined the church as a member and will be baptized this month with six other young people.

Unfortunately, Naseef ran out of the funds he had brought with him to Lebanon. The Beirut Church of the

Nazarene helped him find a place to stay, as they have done with other refugees. Unable to find a job because of his refugee status, Naseef spends his days in the church’s kitchen, assisting the three women who cook more than 100 hot meals per week for the church’s educational program for Syrian refugee children. He also helps to clean the church and classrooms.

“I believe that the Holy Spirit lives in me and I’m ready to serve and tell about Jesus.” □

**Name changed for security*



Eurasian Nazarene bears witness to oppression

Gusztinné Tulipán Mária was born to Christian parents in Hungary at a time in that country’s history when Christ followers were being persecuted under Communist rule.

By the 1990s, the culture had begun to change in monumental ways. Mária was an eyewitness to great events.

As she reflects on her years serving as an ordained elder in the Church of the Nazarene, Mária says this about her homeland: “I do like the complexity of the ugly and the good together...and discovering the touch of God’s hand through it all.”

To order *Eyewitness: Seeing from Within an Oppressive Society*, visit: <http://tiny.cc/4799ly>

To find out more about other Nazarene mission books, visit: <http://nmi.nazarene.org/10073/story.html>

Where Worlds Meet

is the monthly newsletter for the Eurasia Region of the Church of the Nazarene.

To subscribe, email to:

communications@eurasiaregion.org or visit our website: eurasiaregion.org

Follow Us

Facebook: [Facebook.com/eurasiaregion](https://www.facebook.com/eurasiaregion)

Twitter: [Twitter.com/eurasiaregion](https://twitter.com/eurasiaregion)

Vimeo: [Vimeo.com/eurasia](https://vimeo.com/eurasia)

Website: www.eurasiaregion.org

Our Team

GINA POTTENGER
Communications Coordinator
gpottenger@eurasiaregion.org

TEANNA SUNBERG
Central Europe Communications Coordinator
tsunberg@eurasiaregion.org

ERIN KETCHUM
W. Mediterranean Communications Coordinator
eketchum@eurasiaregion.org

ZEE GIMON
CIS Field Communications Coordinator
zgimon@eurasiaregion.org

RANDOLF WOLST
Website Designer
rwolst@eurasiaregion.org

REBECCA MOISIO
Regional Video Editor
rmoisio@eurasiaregion.org

ARTHUR SNIJDERS
Regional Director
awsnijders@eurasiaregion.org

Eurasia Regional Office

Postfach 1217
8207
Schaffhausen
Switzerland

phone: (+49) 7734 93050
email: communications@eurasiaregion.org

Visit our website for more information:

www.eurasiaregion.org

New RAC and GB elected

The Eurasia Regional Caucus held RAC (Regional Advisory Council) elections on 24 and 27 June. Eurasia General Assembly delegates voted in approved early voting and nominated General Board members who were confirmed by the General Assembly the week of June 26-30.

Please find below those elected and the Eurasia Regional SDMI Coordinator and Global NMI President who serve on the General Board as well. We also extend recognition to Cathy Tarrant who was elected as the Eurasia Regional NMI Representative to the Global NMI Council for the next four years.

General Board

Sanjay Gawali - India Western Maharashtra - District Superintendent

David Montgomery - British Isles South - District Superintendent

David Day - British Isles South - Accountant

Christoph Nick - Germany - Project Manager in research/development for a microsystem technology company

Mary Schaar - Germany- Pastor in Stuttgart, Germany

Vinay Gawali - India Eastern Maharashtra - Associate Professor with Kasturba Nursing College

Eurasia SDMI and Global SDMI Representative- Milon Patwary - Bangladesh South - NCM Canada projects in Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh

Global NMI President - Philip Weatherill - British Isles South - Vice-President for a pharmaceutical company

RAC- Regional Advisory Council 2017-2021

India

Vinay Gawali - Eastern Maharashtra - Associate Professor with Kasturba Nursing College

Mrs. Jothy Rajulwala - NW India - English teacher grades 9-12

South Asia

Milon Patwary - Bangladesh South - NCM Canada

Daniel Kalaichelvan - Sri Lanka - District Superintendent

Northern Europe

Carl McCann - British Isles South - Pastor of Ashton Church of the Nazarene

Martin Wahl - Germany - Assistant to DS and Pastor in Berlin

Western Mediterranean

Raquel Pereira - Portugal - Registrar for EUNC

Eastern Mediterranean

Bassel Habiby - Lebanon - Works for Auditing/Accounting Firm

CIS

Svetlana Kleshchar - Ukraine - Pastor in Kyiv and Foreign Language Teacher/Interpreter

Central Europe

Kaj Ove Bollerup - Denmark - DS for Scandinavia

Once again, we greatly you and your service to our Lord and His Church. ☐

Prayer requests

Please pray for Filimao Chambo and Carla Sunberg, as they fill their new roles as general superintendents in the Church of the Nazarene.

Pray for the safety of the many Nazarenes still traveling following General Assembly.

Pray for our church regionally, as well as globally, as we seek to implement the decisions, ideas and strategies from General Assembly.

Pray for Naseef as he grows in his new faith in Jesus Christ. Pray protection for him and his family.

Also, pray for the churches in the Middle East, across the region and around the world who are ministering to refugees.