

# WHERE WORLDS MEET

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**CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
**EURASIA**

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## **“My heart was melted”**

In a time of despair, Imran had a radical encounter with the living God.

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## **Manual translation summit held**

A gathering of representatives from 11 language groups met to work on translation of the denomination's 2017-2021 Manual.

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## **“Called”**

A Wesleyan-Holiness conference for women clergy and ministry leaders will take place 2-5 November in Croatia.

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# Pushing *our* boundaries

*With amazement, about a year ago I listened to a Nazarene young woman share her certainty that the Lord had called her to serve in a Middle Eastern country where our church is not yet. It was something none of us had expected, especially since she herself came from a part of our region where the church is small.*

This was good news! There was nobody of the Church of the Nazarene there. No missionary, no contacts, nothing. Yet, that did not stop the Lord from putting this in her heart.



General Superintendent Eugenio Duarte greeting Nazarenes in India during district assembly tours.

However, she was not the only one at that meeting. Another lady shared that the Lord was guiding her and her husband to go and plant a church in a new country. Nobody had known that this was in their

heart, but it seemed to come at the right time. It made me look at them in new ways. The Lord detects potential in His children.

These conversations were unexpected for me, but known and prepared for by the Spirit of Christ. I caught myself thinking, "It feels like a river that has been gaining strength underground, and all of a sudden comes to the surface as a strong stream of living water." It was there, but unseen. Today both are serving where they were called to go.

In Acts 13:2 we read, "While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, 'Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.' So, after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off."

When I was a seminary student, my missions professor walked into the large dining hall where



This month, assemblies are taking place in Sri Lanka and India. Arthur Snijders, regional director (center) spent time in Sri Lanka with Rev. V.K. Daniel, the district superintendent, and George David, the NCM Lanka country coordinator.

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# PUSH: What boundary in your life could you push?

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120 students were gathered, and made an announcement: "There is a humanitarian crisis going on in Thailand. Missionary organisations are bringing together a response team. If you know people in your church who could participate, please let me know." Thirty minutes later, six students stood around him explaining that they were ready to go. Afterwards, when I talked with that professor, he explained that his only intention was to activate the students' network, not the students themselves. The Holy Spirit decided otherwise. "Set apart for me..."

There are so many areas and people groups to be reached in Eurasia. And we only will succeed when we push our boundaries. The church fellowship of Barnabas and Paul

had been pushing their boundaries, joining Jews and non-Jews alike in the faith in Christ, freely and sacrificially bridging cultures. But never had the Lord asked them to send leaders to another country. There must have been many in that congregation who were surprised. Was the Lord really speaking about sending them to Turkey?

Just imagine if the person next to you in the pew says yes to moving to another country. One moment you know him or her as your friend and enthusiastic Sunday School leader, with a nice job in the city. The very next moment that has all changed. Now you know a missionary in the making.

I am convinced that these kinds of

Spirit stirrings to push boundaries are better detected by Nazarenes who are part of a particular fellowship – fellowships that are prayerfully and sacrificially taking risks for the sake of the Kingdom.

What boundary in your life could you push for the glory of God this year? Or maybe this month?

This month, district assemblies are taking place in Sri Lanka and India. Please pray for these gatherings, that we would not only complete annual business necessary for districts' developments, but also that we would hear the Spirit and respond in obedience.

-- Arthur Snijders, Regional Director

## Testimony

### "My heart was melted"

*In a time of despair, Imran had a radical encounter with the living God.*

PAKISTAN -- Crumbling under the heavy pressure of his school work, Imran felt that he was failing to get the high marks his parents and others expected from him. He had been pushed into studying science, although his real passion was computers. When he begged a teacher to let him change subjects, it was not permitted.

He was told that if he failed in school, he was wasting money and valuable resources.

Feeling hopeless, he made at least one suicide attempt.

While waiting for his exam results with a sinking heart, he was invited to attend a pastor's prayer camp, along with his father, who led a house church in their home. They had joined the Church of the Nazarene after a Nazarene JESUS Film team preached and showed the film in their community around 2002.

Imran expected pretty girls to be at the prayer camp, which was the main reason he'd agreed to go. However, when he arrived, he saw only men – and one girl who was already married.

That evening, the lead pastor laid his hands on many of the people and prayed fervently for them. Feeling

desperate for the love and presence of God in his life, Imran said to himself, "If God is really working, this pastor will pray for me."

Yet, after the pastor had prayed for every person in the room – except Imran – he returned to his

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# HEART: Imran leads theological education development

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chair. Deeply disappointed, Imran concluded there must be no God.

"Suddenly I felt a hand on my shoulder poking me and someone said, 'Someone is calling you.' I went and there was the pastor who was praying for all those people. He [said], 'I want to pray for you.' He laid his hand on me and he started to pray and ... he started telling me all the things I was going through.

"I have big dreams," he said, chuckling.

While working in ministry, Imran earned his Master's in Business Administration.

One day, Pastor Aneel came to preach at his church. Aneel serves as the district superintendent for the Church of the Nazarene in the area. More comfortable preaching in English than the local language, Aneel asked Imran to serve as his interpreter during the service. Aneel was so pleased with his abilities that he took Imran along to other churches he was visiting.

Then, Aneel said, "We want to use you in our district."

The district was planning to restart a learning center for South Asia Nazarene Bible College, and hired Imran to do it. They began with five students in May 2013.

Since then, four learning centers have reopened and 60 students are enrolled, with 50 attending classes regularly. A fifth center opened in September 2017.

Imran believes firmly in the importance of theological education for leaders and pastors in his country.

"In the rural areas, there are no Bible colleges," he said. "But most of the churches are in rural areas. The pastors are not well-educated. Sometimes we are preaching by heart and passion but not with the right doctrine. So that is very necessary to be holistic and missional. Our education – what are our values – this is very important, not even for themselves, but for the church growth. A healthy church will give a healthy community, and a healthy community makes a healthy nation."

Most of the students travel from three to five hours to reach the learning center for class, which means waking up as early as 4 a.m.

to get a bus. Some of them must take time off work, giving up their wages to study.

"They are living hand-to-mouth. Some of them are sacrificing a lot for their education. They know the value of it."

In November 2016, 12 of the students graduated. This year, more will graduate, including one woman who completed her pastor's diploma.

## Thousands more trained pastors needed

*One of the greatest needs of the Church of the Nazarene in South Asia is educated pastors who have been trained with excellence. To have a strong, dynamic church in the future, pastors must be trained today.*

*In the South Asia Field, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal, there are 4,053 fully organized churches, but just 326 ordained clergy.*

*This gap will continue to spread as South Asia is one of the fastest growing fields in the Church of the Nazarene.*

*In May 2017, the six district superintendents of South Asia set the goal to plant almost 2,000 more churches in the next five years.*

*Thousands more mature, well-trained pastors will be needed in a very short time.*

*To help speed up the training of pastors for ministry, a project has been set up to allow donations to provide scholarships and increase the infrastructure of South Asia Nazarene Bible College.*

*To give or learn more, visit: <http://www.nazarene.org/global-mission-project?project=2757>*

-- Imran

"I was so overwhelmed by God's presence, and I felt God's love so much, and I cried there two or three hours. Like a baby, I cried. My heart was so melted, I cannot explain. It is more than feelings. I say only Jesus broke my heart and that was such an amazing moment.

"Before that, I was going to church, I was leading and presiding in the church. I was in the choir. I was leading them, but this thing totally changed me."

Filled with a new, unquenchable thirst for God, he spent long hours in his room reading the Bible and praying, only coming out to eat. He became so zealous that for a time he was angry not to see the same miracles and divine movement of God in his church as he read about in the early church depicted in the New Testament of Acts.

After finishing school he found a job in a bank, but quickly became unsatisfied with the work and resigned in just a month. Instead he began volunteering in a Christian ministry. He dreamed of a great revival in which someday the people of his city and nation would seek God.



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## Multi-language summit speeds up new Manual translation

*Translators from 11 different language groups made history when they gathered in Lisbon, Portugal, 18-24 November for the Church of the Nazarene's first Manual Translation Summit. Working together they helped significantly speed up the process of translating the denomination's manual revisions passed at the 2017 General Assembly and Conventions last July.*

The group spent five days discussing additions to the 2017-2021 *Manual* and establishing a lexicon of terms for each language.

Scott Stargel, head of Global Nazarene Publications, came up with the idea for the event.

The committees represented the following languages: Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Dutch, French, German, Hungarian, Portuguese (Brazil and Portugal), Romanian, Russian, and Vietnamese.

By bringing different language groups together, leaders hope to release translations sooner than in past years.

"The primary push behind this is that districts can start voting [on amendments to the *Manual* constitution] in January instead of after U.S. assemblies," Stargel said.

General Secretary David Wilson, who oversees the publication of the *Manual*, explained how this year's process was different.

"The Board of General Superintendents declared the electronic version and the printed version as the official *Manual*," he said. "This enabled us to start the translation process more quickly. Now, the 2017-2021 *Manual* will be in place for the early, global assemblies."

Stargel emphasized the importance of the gathering.

"We've never had this many language groups together at one time before the

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# MANUAL: 'Fosters ownership and Nazarene identity'

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English *Manual* is released," he said. "Typically we wait until April to begin this process, after the English *Manual* is printed. This means that the translations are delayed by about a year."

The translators also appreciated the

a Manual Summit in the Eurasia Region in order to boost and to speed up *Manual* translation has been my dream (desire) for many years. Our people and churches need this important resource in their hands after a General Assembly as soon as possible and we want

to provide it to them. I am very grateful that the General (Global) Church and Global Nazarene Publications have enabled us to achieve that."

Because the event was well-received, leaders hope to hold similar gathers on the Asia-Pacific and Africa regions.

*"To have the Manual in their own language means that they can discuss, train and teach in their mother tongue. It fosters ownership and Nazarene identity."*

*-- Arthur Snijders, Regional Director*

event.

"Having translated and updated the *Manual* since the late 80s, the invitation to come to Portugal was a new one," said Hans Deventer, a member of the Dutch committee. "Till now, I had mainly worked on my own. Being there, it soon became clear why this event had been organized. Any question a team would have was promptly answered by Dr. David Wilson or by Scott Stargel, which was very beneficial to the process."

Nikolaj Sawatzky, Eurasia Region Literature coordinator, said, "To have

"For leaders in our churches to lead with confidence and in unity the *Manual* is foundational," said Arthur Snijders, regional director for Eurasia. "But to have the *Manual* in their own language means that they can discuss, train and teach in their mother tongue. It fosters ownership and Nazarene identity."

For more information on the *Manual* and to access the 2017-2021 electronic version, visit [nazarene.org/manual](http://nazarene.org/manual).

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## About the Manual

*The Manual is the Church of the Nazarene denomination's official, agreed-upon statement of faith, practice, and polity.*

*The 2017-2021 edition marks the first time that the Manual will be officially accessible in this new electronic format as well as print copies. Print versions will be available in March 2018 for purchase from Nazarene Publishing House. More information will be provided as other translations (electronic and printed) are completed.*

*To download the newest version in English, or the 2017-2021 version in other languages, visit: <http://2017.manual.nazarene.org/about/>*



## Nazarene Stories

*Nazarene Stories* is a collection of video features and testimonies from Nazarenes around the world.

Visit [nazarene.org/stories](http://nazarene.org/stories) to watch the newest videos released January 2018, including a special story from Eurasia.

All the videos are downloadable, for sharing with your local church.

# Who are Nazarenes?

## We are a Christian people

As members of the Church Universal, we join with all true believers in proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ and in affirming the historic Trinitarian creeds and beliefs of the Christian faith. We value our Wesleyan-Holiness heritage and believe it to be a way of understanding the faith that is true to Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience.

## We are a holiness people

God, who is holy, calls us to a life of holiness. We believe that the Holy Spirit seeks to do in us a second work of grace, called by various terms including "entire sanctification" and "baptism with the Holy Spirit"-cleansing us from all sin, renewing us in the image of God, empowering us to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves, and producing in us the character of Christ. Holiness in the life of believers is most clearly understood as Christlikeness.

## We are a missional people

We are a sent people, responding to the call of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into all the world, witnessing to the Lordship of Christ and participating with God in the building of the Church and the extension of His kingdom (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1). Our mission (a) begins in worship, (b) ministers to the world in evangelism and compassion, (c) encourages believers toward Christian maturity through discipleship, and (d) prepares women and men for Christian service through Christian higher education.

Learn more at: [www.nazarene.org/articles-faith](http://www.nazarene.org/articles-faith)

*"Remember not the former things,  
nor consider the things of old.  
Behold, I am doing a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"  
-- Isaiah 43:18-19*

## Prayer requests

Please pray for Imran as he leads the growth and development of theological education for pastors and leaders in Pakistan. Ask God to bless him and SANBC, that more learning centers would be rapidly established and many more students able to enroll. Pray for God to send resources that will enable the expansion and provide scholarships for students.

Pray for God to lead and guide leaders across the region who are developing plans to plant hundreds of churches and open works in new countries by the year 2020. Pray for God's favor and clear guidance, and for the provision of more leaders and resources. Pray that thousands of people will find healing, transformation, and hope in Christ through these efforts.

## Where Worlds Meet

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

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visit our website: [eurasiaregion.org](http://eurasiaregion.org)

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