



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
EURASIA

subscribe www.eurasiaregion.org

CALLED conference gathers European women clergy to reimagine ministry

Women got together to encourage each other to pursue academic growth and to keep building their ministry.



2

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
Whom shall I send, and who will go for me?

Then I said: Here am I, send me!



3

Village deemed “too poor” for a church now has 250 believers

With the help of the JESUS Film a pastor reached the community.

India field NYI council and leadership development meeting at Bangalore

Two days of learning, growing and getting to know youth leaders.



4

CALLED: Affirming the Call to Ministry

By Teanna Sunberg

Qendressa represents a community of Nazarene believers from Kosova, where the culture prohibits women from any role of leadership over men. The broader Christian community in her nation numbers only a few thousand and represents a very small minority of the general population. She has only seen a woman preach from the pulpit once, and that individual was an American missionary.

Over the past couple of years, Qendressa has been taking on more ministry roles within her local church. In November, she came to the CALLED: Reimagine conference with a firm belief that scripture allows women only to serve under the leadership of men.

Qendressa was one of 153 women and 5 men that journeyed to the Wesleyan Holiness Conference for Women Clergy and Ministry Leaders on the outskirts of Zagreb, Croatia. Their influence stretches across 24 countries of the European continent. Some came wrestling with the legitimacy of their call. Others came ready to be challenged and equipped, both academically

and practically, for ministry leadership and service. They found intentionally planned opportunities to explore, to deepen, to be equipped, and to broaden their understanding of their call to ministry.

The concept of a Wesleyan Women's Clergy conference has been evolving for nearly two decades. An initial conference was held in Ireland in 2002, attended predominantly by women from Western Europe. Four years ago, a Nazarene steering committee organized the Women's Clergy Conference in Sighisoara, Romania. Funded in part by a generous donation from Nazarene Global Clergy Development, 80 women attended the Romania conference, women whose places of service extended even into the Middle East. They were from several Wesleyan Holiness traditions including the Salvation Army, the Wesleyan Church, the Church of the Nazarene and the Methodist Church.

This most recent conference held in Zagreb reflects growth in numerical attendance as well as an expanding cross-denominational cooperation of Wesleyan Holiness

see "CALLED" • page 5

More than 165 women clergy, missionaries and ministry leaders from several denominations and organizations attended the CALLED Conference for training, equipping, refreshing for ministry, as well as fellowship with other women in ministry.

Photo by Louise Kenyon



Women representing many of the countries attending the conference led the preparation for receiving the Lord's Supper.



Village deemed “too poor” for a church now has 250 believers

By Gina Grate Pottenger

When denominations and nonprofits viewed one Pakistani village as too poor to plant a church, a local pastor refused to give up.

Thanks to his vision and the JESUS Film, 250 residents have given their lives to Jesus and formed a worshipping community. Now they are working toward constructing their own worship building to establish their legitimacy in the village.

This is their story.

Beginnings

Located in a desert area of Pakistan where farming is difficult and clean water is scarce, there is a village where people live in mud huts, do not have electricity or access to education.

Their poverty is so great that even local worship centers for their religion do not exist. As a result, most people identify with their religion as a family or cultural tradition without actually understanding or practicing it, according to a local Nazarene leader.

“For most people it’s about survival, and religion – or the practice of it – is not a priority,” a church leader in Pakistan explained.

The village has attracted a number of non-government organizations that have tried to improve the conditions through economic development projects. According to local pastor *Obaid, it has also attracted corrupt organizations that exploit the residents, such as taking photos of the people to draw investors to nonexistent projects.

In 2003, a denomination opened a seminary to train pastors in the village. Although a number of people were trained, the denomination’s leaders came to believe that the extreme poverty of the area made an evangelical mission to the residents financially impossible; it was said that any churches planted could never become self-supporting. After 10 years, the denomination left the area.



The Catholic Church attempted to work in the area, opening a school, as well. Yet, they were also unable to fulfill a vision to plant a church.

Raised by his family in their traditional religion, Pastor Obaid gave his life to Jesus as the result of the first denomination’s evangelism to his village. He and several other local men studied through the seminary. After the denomination left the area, they continued sharing the gospel with people as the Spirit provided opportunity.

Pastor Obaid had a vision to bring the gospel of Jesus to the entire village, even after other churches had given up.

“He had been praying for years for someone to come and say they wanted to start a church,” a church leader wrote.

Pastor Obaid’s prayers were answered when Nazarene Pastor *Kaleem became acquainted with him.

“The Nazarene Church was the first he met that said they want to begin a church.”

Through this connection, a Nazarene JESUS Film team began visiting Pastor Obaid’s village, conducting evangelism and discipleship for two years.

“In his village 250 people came to know the Lord and since then more have come to accept Jesus,” wrote a church leader.

According to Nazarene leadership in Pakistan, the Church of the Nazarene is the first to go into this area with the main focus on evangelism, church planting and constructing worship centers.

A place for worship

Now numbering over 300 people, the new believers have worshipped God outdoors because they cannot afford to construct a church building.

“It is hard to quantify how many come, as the heat and environment is not conducive to open air worship,” said a local leader. “Most of the men also leave during the harvesting season, as this is the only work, and on most Sundays the attendance is older people, women and children. Since these are new believers and very uneducated, even by Pakistani standards, the work is really new and challenging without a place to properly worship.”

see “PAKISTAN” • page 6



Training

Leadership: Learning with Each Other

By Rev. Rajiv Yangad

Global Nazarene Youth International (NYI) leaders provided leadership development training to India Field's NYI Council members at Bangalore 20 to 21 October 2018.

Every district in the India Field has an active NYI ministry, made up of more than 23,000 youth. Numerically, the India Field has the sixth largest NYI membership in the world. Global NYI leaders thought it is imperative to train the India Field NYI Council and district leaders with basics of NYI and leadership development.

India Field NYI Coordinator Rev. Vijay Bhalerao gathered NYI district presidents and district representatives at Bangalore.

On day one, all these leaders participated in leadership training through various physical activities at a center called Breakthrough. Leadership lessons included:

- Leadership is sharing and utilizing every member's creativity and contribution towards achieving a goal.
- United efforts bring faster and better results.

- Christ's love has the potential to turn the attackers into the protectors.
- Christian humility
- Proper, constant mentoring and encouragement brings out the best from the team members and helps them overcome fear.

Day two began with a devotional by Rev. Simon Jothi, principal of South Asia Nazarene Bible College, to develop the character of Nazarene youth so they are ready for both the present and the future.

Global NYI Director Rev. Gary Hartke shed light on three essentials of the Global NYI mission: BE DO GO. He shared information about online NYI resources and encouraged the field council members to translate the material into local languages. He provided essential leadership development training based on four C's: Competence, Character, Commitment, and Chemistry. He also provided training on models of fundraising.

India Field Communications Coordinator Rev. Rajiv Yangad presented five definitives of discipleship.

A Timothy Award was presented to Mr. Thangchinkhup Singson from North East India District for his years of leadership and service to local and district NYI.

see "INDIA" • page 6



Jamila Alchanaa, The Welseyan Church Austria/Syria, Revd Ruth Lowe, The Wesleyan Holiness Church, UK, Dr. Svetlana Khobnya, lecturer at Nazarene Theological College, and Rev. Annemarie Snijders, Mobilization Coordinator for the Eurasia Region, led a panel discussion on "CALLED – Joys, Struggles and Glimpses of Hope."

Photo by Louise Kenyon

CALLED: Reimagine the Ministry

Continued from page 2

churches across Europe. As these women carve out a theological space within the continent's broader Christian community, the conference participants represent faith communities from the Wesleyan Church, the Church of God, the Church of the Nazarene, One Mission Society (OMS), the United Methodists (Russia) and the Anglican Church. The nine-member steering committee was also intentionally diverse, with a shared leadership from the Wesleyan Church, the Church of the Nazarene, and OMS.

The content of the conference was a determined balance of theology, deliberate theology, and practical skill-building for ministry with thirteen workshops focused under four broad themes of reimagining: the minister, the church, healthy relationships, and theology. The schedule was rounded out with two panel discussions, topical table discussions, devotionals, sermons, and a service of Lament and Reconciliation. The conference closed on Monday morning with Wesleyan Covenant Prayer Stations and Eucharist.

Out of curiosity, Qendressa attended a workshop led by Dr. Svetlana Khobnya, theologian and Biblical Studies Lecturer at Nazarene Theological College-Manchester

(NTC) called Reimagining Theology: Reading Challenging Texts in Light of the Gospel. Khobnya dealt with the biblical interpretations of two verses, 1 Timothy 2:8-15 and 1 Corinthians 14:34-36, that are most often used to prohibit or set limitations on women. From Russia, Dr. Khobnya understands the strong resistance to women as pastors within the church. Qendressa says that Khobnya's workshop was a critical point for her. The tools she gained for careful interpretation of biblical texts have her wondering and wrestling with what obedience to God's call in her life might mean in the future.

The conference's interdenominational steering committee hoped that the intentionally broad inclusion of women into the theological conversation would be transformative. The presenters were from a diverse spectrum in terms of ethnicity, geography, age, experience and ministry responsibilities. The attendance list stretched from women who were still exploring their call all the way to women who fulfill the top levels of ordained leadership in their denominations. The result was a healthy environment for exploration, encouragement, and being equipped.

While Qendressa's experience was dramatic, for others such as Anne

from the Republic of Ireland who is serving with OMS, the conference created space where she was encouraged and challenged by the stories and ministries of other women.

Helga, a lay leader in a Ziva Nada (Living Hope) Wesleyan Church in Split, Croatia, was surprised by how God challenged her through The Call, a workshop led by Rev. Wilma Holleman, (CotN, Netherlands). Holleman, who co-pastors Zaanstad Church of the Nazarene, focused her workshop around the assumption that women were already serving in active roles of leadership in their local congregations. Her challenge to check motives for ministry was powerful. Helga summed up her conference experience with one word: liberating.

Before moving to Minsk (Belarus) to plant a church, Rev. Tatiana Cantarella pastored in Moscow (Russia), where she was fully invested in her ministerial role. Her workshop, Identity as Minister, drew from the wealth of her experience as senior pastor and as a church planter. Cantarella captured the heart of the conference in a post-event interview when she described church planting in a city where there are no other Wesleyans: "It is a challenge to exist within a Christian community that struggles with my call and gifts because I am a woman."

see "CALLED" • page 7

PAKISTAN: Partnering for water

Continued from page 3

Pastor Obaid and the other leaders are persisting in the demanding work of discipling them.

For many of the new believers, departing from their family's traditional religion has caused family conflicts over things such as declined marriage proposals because of a new difference in faith. Some don't know what ceremony they should follow for a marriage.

"Some of the challenges faced by the pastor [include] keeping the people motivated, as having no place of worship makes it hard to get everyone together," a local leader said. "Because their [previous] faith did not require any work and they did not have the habit of going to the [place of worship], it is difficult for them to understand the need to come to church on a Sunday when there is no building and they are just surviving day to day.

"Right now the pastor and leaders are working hard to give them hope and to learn about Jesus and to trust in him. They need to learn about God, the Bible and what it means to love and follow Jesus."

A church of their own

Recognizing that, in order to preserve the harvest they have been given in this village, a church building is critical, Pastor Obaid and a few of the residents sacrificially donated parts of their own land in hope that God will provide additional resources for constructing a church there.

God has provided. A generous donor gave the funds required to build the church, which, when completed, will have space for up to 400 worshippers.

"Our district superintendent and leadership team believe that if we plant and build a church, we will have a firm foundation on which to increase our work and win the area for Jesus. We have recently requested funds to put 'hand water' pumps in a few villages and are praying that some of our Nazarene family will respond as the need for water in this desert region."

The new worship center for the church in this village is one of many Nazarene church buildings proposed across Pakistan, many of which still await funding.

"The story of [this village] is the story of many other communities in Pakistan where the district superintendent and his team are trying to work together with the local church leaders to build places where people can come together and worship the Lord of Lords," said Trino Jara, field strategy coordinator for South Asia, of which Pakistan is a part. "This is a partnership between the local church and the mission of the church, as well as people around the world who invest in this precious ministry. The Church of the Nazarene in Pakistan is growing, and with this the need for more buildings."

The district superintendent also expresses gratitude to Mr. Iqbal, Miss Nuzhat, Rev. Imran, Rev.



Ijaz, Pastor Sohail and the JESUS Film team, saying, "Without these individuals, we would not be in that area, working, and being able to report back how God is at work to bring transformation to this community."

Partnering with the global church

While it is not possible for Work & Witness teams to travel to Pakistan, churches around the world are welcome to contribute the resources necessary for churches in Pakistan to construct their worship spaces, or help to install water pumps for providing clean drinking water.

Restoration Church of the Nazarene, Bedford, Indiana, USA, raised funds to install four water pumps in four different areas around this village where diarrhea, cholera and other diseases are common in infants because the water is polluted.

"The people here, especially the women and girls, used to walk hours to collect water for their families," a local leader reported. "The water wasn't safe for drinking and cooking, and simply keeping themselves clean often made people sick. The community is thankful to the Restoration Church of the Nazarene for their help. People here are walking significantly less every day to collect water. Most importantly the water they bring home is safe enough to drink." □

INDIA: Building up local leaders

Continued from page 4

Shreya Yangad, a representative from Central Maharashtra District, said, "I have understood the core of leadership through these meetings. I am highly impressed with the Christlike humility of the leaders here and I plan to imitate them in my life."

Diego Lopez, Eurasia NYI leader, said, "We had a great time together. Everyone participated very enthusiastically and together we committed to continue

helping develop leaders for the benefit of the local church. There was a lot of energy in the room. We all went away hopeful for India and its future."

India Field Coordinator Rev. Vijay Bhalerao was well pleased with the results of the training and said, "It is so encouraging to see several districts supporting their NYI leaders to attend the training. I am committed to training NYI leaders throughout the year on the district level. I am sure the training provided here is going to build the district youth for Christlike leadership." □

CALLED: Reimagine the Ministry

Continued from page 5

From that perspective, this was a meaningful opportunity to step back into her pastoral role as a workshop presenter. Cantarella appreciated reconnecting with people who recognize her as a pastor and as a minister. She also mentioned the richness of being immersed in the spiritual traditions of lament and covenant prayer stations as a participant.

CALLED: Reimagine is a strong statement for the egalitarian position on women and ministry – a position held by the majority of churches in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition. Egalitarians believe that women are equally called and gifted by God into any and all roles of leadership in the church. On a global scale, amidst the broader Christian community, the position is controversial.

There are pockets of growing acceptance which can be seen predominantly in North America and Western Europe where churches draw upon the precedence of earlier generations within the Wesleyan-Holiness movement who ordained women. Denominationally, both the Wesleyan Church and the Church of the Nazarene have benefitted from the leadership of women in every level of church administration. In 2008, Dr. JoAnne Lyons was elected as General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church, the highest office for that denomination. The Church of the Nazarene has elected two women to the General Superintendency: Dr. Nina Gunter in 2005 and Dr. Carla Sunberg in 2017.

Khobnya and Cantarella, who are both Russian, represent the religious contexts of the vast majority of women attending the conference. Most churches in the former Soviet nations, the Middle East, and the Balkans prohibit a woman in the pulpit or in any place of authority or leadership over a man. For

these contexts, those attending CALLED: Reimagine are the first generation of women ministers and they come with the full blessing and advocacy of their denominations and organizations. Even with that blessing, they have a challenging journey ahead of them. They are the first generation who dares to enter a pulpit and preach a sermon. They are the first generation of women to serve the church as pastors, ministry/denominational leaders, and theologians.

Across the vast European continent, this generation of Wesleyan Holiness women has a hope for young women and men like Qendressa. CALLED: Reimagine is a step in the direction of that hope to form both a present and a future where a woman in the pulpit is a normal occurrence because the Lord of the Harvest is calling and equipping workers. The glass ceiling across the continent has more cracks as women like Qendressa, Ann, and Helga return to their places of worship with new vision and better equipped for God's call. □

CALLED: Reimagine Conference Statistics

*Participants were from
24 different countries*

Total of 157 attendees

*Denominations
represented:*

*Church of the Nazarene,
Methodist (Free and
United), Anglican, OMS,
Church of God, Wesleyan,
and Church in Action.*





SAVE THE DATE!

Eurasia Regional Conference



Eurasia Nazarenes can choose the location to attend.
More information will follow shortly.

www.invisibleconference.org



EURASIA MISSION ORIENTATION
22 - 24 FEBRUARY 2019
DORDRECHT, THE NETHERLANDS

"So I Send You"

Jesus Christ



The Experience

TO REGISTER FOR THE EMO GO TO
EURASIAREGION.ORG/VOLUNTEERS/EVENTS/
REGISTRATION COSTS €50
(INCLUDES MEALS AND ACCOMMODATION)

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

*"The Lord is near to all who call on him,
to all who call on him in truth."*

Psalms 145:18

Prayer requests

Please pray for the women that attended the conference. That they may keep looking to share the gospel in their home church and that through them more women will answer their calls.

Pray for the NYI leaders and the Indian District. That God may give them wisdom to disciple their youth and that more NYI leaders may come.

Please pray for the areas where the Gospel has not yet been reached and that this village in Pakistan may keep on growing in their faith. Ask God to prepare people to go the areas that want to know more about Him, but have no possibility.

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

Twitter: Twitter.com/eurasiaregion

Vimeo: Vimeo.com/eurasia

Website: www.eurasiaregion.org

Our Team

GINA POTTINGER
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

AYMAN KAFROUNY
Eastern Mediterranean Comm Coordinator
aymankafrouny@ajwiba.org

RAJIV YANGAD
India Field Communications Coordinator
yangadrajiv@cmnaz.org

RANDOLF WOLST
Website Designer
rwolst@eurasiaregion.org

ARTHUR SNIJDERS
Regional Director
awsnijders@eurasiaregion.org

Eurasia Regional Office

Junkerstrasse 60
Buesingen Am Hochrhein
Switzerland 8238

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