

# WHERE WORLDS MEET

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CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE  
EURASIA

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# Croatia: while searching for asylum Jesus was found

By Betsy Scott and Nicole Almeida

*Taylor\* is a refugee. He had to leave his country because he had been helping Americans and then someone tried to kill him. After arriving in Croatia, Talal asked for asylum; since his arrival, he has been rejected three times.*

During his stay, Taylor met Betsy Scott, missionary and District Development Pastor, in Zagreb, Croatia; and Emmett\*, the Arabic District Licensed Minister who leads the Arabic Nazarene service.

He arrived to the Nazarene Church in Croatia through an English Class at Porin. Betsy Scott was his teacher for about a year. During this time Emmett invited him to church. "One day, I just remember seeing him at church! I was so excited to see him! I was a bit dumbfounded because I knew of his beliefs, and I also had never seen him outside of the classroom context. He seemed really excited to see our church," said Betsy.

That was about a year ago. For the past 10 months, Taylor has consistently attended the Sunday services and participates regularly in church activities like movie nights, membership classes, and the Arabic Bible study led by Emmett.

As time went by, members of the Church in Croatia had noticed that Taylor was on a journey, was asking more questions, and was more open to believing differently than he was when he first started coming to their church.

Betsy recalls that in the beginning when he started coming to church, he missed his traditions, and he asked twice if he could pray in the basement of their church. After talking about it as a leadership team, they decided to respond with a "no", confirming that "we loved him and wanted him to keep coming, but that we needed to say no to that." They didn't want to send a wrong message for others who attend the church, nor to the Christian believers in church, that they are willing to compromise theologically or change their Christian identity to make people feel more comfortable. But the team wanted Taylor to feel still welcome to attend church, even though they said no.

During a service in December 2018, Taylor shared that

he firmly believes in the Christian Trinity as one God, and not 3, as he had previously believed. He has also shared with the church that he is curious about who Jesus was and wanted to know more. Afterwards, on another Baptism Sunday he confessed his belief that Jesus is God and Emmett shared with Betsy that he believes Taylor is getting closer to opening his heart fully to Christ.

"Taylor is such a joy to be around. When I first met him in the Asylum facility, in English class, he was polite, but he had this 'hardness' around him. He seemed to be guarded. Taylor is the opposite of hard now. He is very open and loves everyone! Last week he shared that, while the preacher was preaching, specifically during the part about us being brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ, that he could not stop smiling. He described something coming over him, and he literally could not stop smiling. He is filled with joy now, and he has found his home. He tells us regularly that we 'are his family.' He is always joking with everyone - he is always trying to make someone laugh. It brings me great joy to see Taylor every Sunday," said Betsy Scott.

Taylor has not been the only one who has gone through the asylum request, arrived at the Church of the Nazarene in Zagreb and later received a negative response. The asylum system is not clear in explaining

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*"Taylor is such a joy to be around. When I first met him in the Asylum facility, in English class, he was polite, but he had this 'hardness' around him. He seemed to be guarded. Taylor is the opposite of hard now."*

*Betsy Scott, District Development Pastor & Missionary*







## CROATIA: the joy of the Lord is greater than any sadness

who is eligible to receive such help and who is not. In the case of Taylor, his negative was probably considered a “case” negative. This means that not enough evidence was shown to corroborate his story. This happens very commonly, where someone will claim they are running from death threats or are in danger but, if they do not show the court the specific evidence of the death threats made on their lives, then their case doesn’t hold up in court. The church has seen at least 5 other people leaving because this was the case for their negative.

Taylor has become a brother and part of their family in Christ. He trusts them as his family. He tells them that certain people in church are truly his father, his mother, his brother, and his sister away from home.

“And we get the privilege of watching God move in His life, watching the Spirit nudge and speak to his heart. It is beautiful, and it forces us all to trust a big God who is on the move. He is always asking us questions, and he is eager to grow more. I look forward to his questions and smiles every Sunday!” says Betsy.

During his time in Croatia there is one thing that Taylor has never forgotten. This is the love he has for his community, and the love this community has had for him. He always shares what is on his heart, and he is willing to be vulnerable with his community. He stands up in church or asks to share almost every Sunday, and at the end of services, has asked for prayer. By the end of December, Taylor initiated a prayer time in the church due to a need that had arisen in the church. And one

Sunday, while Shaun\*, a local licensed minister, was preaching about forgiveness, Taylor stood up and said he can finally forgive the man who tried to kill him. It is truly amazing to see peace form within the lives of people who, from all external eyes or views, seem to not have any hope. Recently, after the church family prayed for Taylor (for it was thought he would need to leave in less than a week’s time after his last negative), Taylor told Betsy he decided to have faith and stay. He recently had his last court appointment, and the whole Zagreb Church of the Nazarene was praying for him and continues to pray for their brother, Taylor.

\*Names changed for security purposes. □

Communication

## Nepal youth study filmmaking for mission

By Nicole Almeida

*Film and video have become a widespread, global language of the 21st century. That is why the Nazarene youth of Nepal decided to film and produce documentaries of church members’ testimonies as a way of sharing the gospel to the people of Nepal.*

After two months of taking an intensive course from the [Nepal Gospel Film Academy](#), the Nepali youth spent the month of August putting their training to work. With two old cameras, an outdated computer and a couple of microphones, all of which were borrowed from friends or given from the academy, they began the journey to share the work of God.

Since then, they’ve been mostly working with churches on the eastern side of Nepal, filming the faith stories of their brothers and sisters, and are working their way to the western side of the country.

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## NEPAL: Looking to grow in communications

*Continued from page 3*

Gopal\* is the NYI District President in Nepal. He is the one who motivated the youth to start what they are calling their Visual Media Group (VMG).

Gopal sees this group “as a bridge to connect other ministries, and that it also gives people the opportunity to share their testimonies regarding the power and works of God.”

This group of 14 young men and women see themselves as a campaign that is part of the NYI and not as a stand-alone ministry.

Puzan\*, VMG’s coordinator, said, “This is a campaign that has been running with the youth ministry by its side. We are launching it as a campaign because many people don’t see audiovisual as a ministry. So, we are sharing the VMG as a campaign. This way we’ll be able to reach and encourage more people, and those that don’t see us as a ministry will see that it actually is.”

As they share through the film the stories of how God is bringing hope and transformation to lives in Nepal, the youth want to encourage more Nazarenes and churches to be part of this campaign. Gopal and Puzan hope that it will encourage people in all local churches to see media and filmmaking as a viable ministry for their congregation.

“We are planning to launch an awareness program and audiovisual training in every church, and we hope, one day, all churches will motivate each other by sharing ideas. And that the Gospel will be carried out more effectively and

efficiently,” said Gopal. “We also pray that more youth will become more engaged in audiovisual professionally, which will directly impact the ministries and the work of churches positively.”

Also, Puzan said, “We want to launch a Visual Media Group in every church. We will encourage people to participate. With training, preparation and cooperation from both our side and theirs, we will be able to achieve our goal of spreading the gospel.”

Audiovisuals can be used for many purposes. Apart from filming

documentaries, the Visual Media Group has other projects in mind that will help in spreading the gospel in Nepal.

“We can broadcast our church services,” said Gopal, “which will be beneficial and a blessing for other believers who can’t make it to the church. Another goal is to share testimonies, by watching testimonies of people to whom or by whom God has been doing great and miraculous work. [By seeing these testimonies] other church members and non-believers will be encouraged.”

Since the start of the Visual Media Group, the district has decided to finance a new computer and camera by contributing with \$1,712 US. The group has also started to look for their own way of financing equipment and is seeking sponsors, hoping that soon they will have enough equipment for the group, allowing for more projects to happen simultaneously.

*“We are planning to launch an awareness program and audiovisual training in every church, and we hope, one day, all churches will motivate each other by sharing ideas. And that the Gospel will be carried out more effectively and efficiently.”*

*\*Gopal, NYI District President*

*\*Names changed for security. □*







EURASIA MISSION ORIENTATION  
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# "So I Send You"

## Jesus Christ



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# India: The Power of Persistence

By Rev Rajiv Yangad

***Matru Nazarene Church in Buldana meets every Sunday and Wednesday for worship. The congregation is very passionate about winning people for Christ.***

The Pastor constantly encourages this community to reach out, pray and ask the Lord to bring people into their lives to be evangelized. The latter is something the community earnestly prays for.

As a result of these encouragements and prayers, last year a number of people from other faiths started attending this church. The pastor and other people shared Christ with them.

Among these people was Deepali. Her mother was first introduced to Christ in the vast city of Pune. Having experienced Jesus in her personal life, her mother gave her entire life to Christ.

Deepali had some physical difficulty and, based on her mother's testimony, she started believing in Christ, too. Deepali wanted to go and experience church. She was led to attend Matru Church.

But she didn't come alone. Deepali brought several of her relatives and her boss to the church. After hearing the pastor explain the gospel, she accepted Jesus Christ as her personal Savior.

Every Sunday, Deepali would spend lots of money on transportation to Buldana, bringing other people with her. She was so sold out on introducing Christ to her relatives and friends, every other Sunday some new person would accompany her to the church. They would learn about Christ, then the congregation and pastor would pray for them. Many became children of God.

One day, Deepali brought one of her relatives, Watsalabai, to church. Watsalabai is a widow. Three years ago her husband died of a heart attack. She has two married sons and several grandchildren. On her two acres of farmland, she grows some crops and must work hard for her livelihood. Her sons drive auto rickshaws for income.

At the end of the service, Watsalabai walked to the altar for prayer. It is the practice of the church to offer



*Watsalabai (second from left) came to Matru Church of the Nazarene with her son, Nilkanth (far left) to testify to God's healing in her life. They are pictured with Rev. Rajiv Yangad, district superintendent of the Central Maharashtra District, and his wife, Sofia.*

prayers to the Lord for all who are needy and want God's intervention in their lives. Watsalabai asked prayer for God to heal her from cancer. At that time she was under medical treatment.

The pastor and congregation prayed for her and kept praying for her every day. Prayers for Watsalabai became a regular practice of the congregation.

One of the church members, Mrs. Smita Rayarum, decided to disciple Watsalabai every Sunday. After every Sunday service, as people lingered around in conversation with each other, Mrs. Smita would spend time with Watsalabai, talking with her about the power of Christ and His saving grace. Mrs. Smita would also call her during the week to talk and pray with her on the phone.

Watsalabai was growing in her faith. Every Sunday she would bring her son and daughter-in-law and grandchildren and sometimes some other relatives who were in need of prayer in their life.

Others continued to pray for Watsalabai. District Prayer coordinator Rev. A. V. Gaikwad was given her number, and he would call her every week and inquire of her and pray for her over the phone.

Watsalabai kept on growing in the Lord, and the Lord was working on her healing. Soon, she started feeling changes in her body.

In January on the second Sunday, she stood up at the altar and said, "My initial reports have come back normal, now pray that all of my reports would come back normal and that the Lord would make me totally cancer free."

The congregation surrounded her and laid hands on her and lifted her up in earnest prayers. Throughout the week Mrs. Smita and the congregation were praying for her.

Next Sunday, Watsalabai was in church, but this time something was different. She wore a bright white sari and had a bright white scarf wrapped around her head. Her face was more radiant than ever before.

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# INDIA: the miracle arrives

*Continued from page 6.*

The service went late, and at the end of the service Mrs. Smita came to the front and requested time for Watsalabai to share her testimony.

Watsalabai walked to the front of the church, a youth adjusted her microphone, and Watsalabai spoke with courage:

"I praise God for His grace. He has had mercy upon me. He has shown me who He is and that is wonderful. All of my reports have come back normal. All the glands that were suspected to be cancerous have been declared healthy. I went for my first check-up, and there was no bad news, and then we had to go for a second report. Before starting our journey, my son prayed to Jesus, saying, 'If you are really God, then let all the reports come back normal.' And all my reports came back normal.

"People from my village used to counsel my son Nilkanth not to spend any more money on my treatment, but he wouldn't listen to them. Today he is fasting and has brought me here to the church. Let me tell you that not only I but my sister also had been diagnosed with cancer. I used to pray to the Lord to heal her as well and even used to say in my prayer that He can let me suffer with it, but heal my sister. What a miracle! Today the Lord has healed her as well as me. I praise God."

The Matru Nazarene Church started clapping and praising God for one more miracle they had witnessed.

What a mighty God we serve! He proves Himself and makes the whole world wonder. The congregation's faith was increased because of this experience. Mrs. Smita has grown in her faith, too.

Watsalabai herself is committed to proclaiming Christ among her relatives and in her town. Her village is awestruck by what God has done for her. □

## Eurasia Regional Conference SAVE THE DATE



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Eurasia Nazarenes can choose the location to attend.  
More information will follow shortly.  
[www.invisibleconference.org](http://www.invisibleconference.org)



# 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)

*"Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."*

*1 John 4:15 (ESV)*

## Prayer requests

Pray for the growth of the Visual Media Group in Nepal. That the youth is able to find sponsors and ways to buy new equipment. Also, that more young men and women may develop an interest in communications and in joining the group.

Pray all the refugees that have been going through the process of asylum. That they may find a country that will receive them open heartedly.

Please pray for the healing of those who are sick. That through it all God's will may be done.

## Where Worlds Meet

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

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