

# WHERE WORLDS MEET

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*An annual thanksgiving auction and festival enables them to support projects every year.*



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## British district pioneers gather for support and prayer

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## Aguilars to lead Nazarene Missions International in Eurasia

*Danilo and Emily Aguilar were appointed this summer as the new regional coordinators for Nazarene Missions International. They talked with Where Worlds Meet about their vision and plans for leading this Nazarene ministry that mobilizes the local church in praying, giving and going for missions.*

**WWM:** *Why did you agree to take on coordination of this ministry in Eurasia?*

**Aguilars:** Our region is vast and complex, so to be trusted with such an important ministry inspires us. We're honored. With our team of field NMI leaders, we hope to understand the challenges experienced at the district and local NMI level, and create fruitful ways to participate in God's global mission in the local context.

**WWM:** *Do you have prior experience in this ministry, say, at the local or district level at some point in your journey?*

**Aguilars:** We both grew up in the Church of the Nazarene and have participated in local NMI events, education and projects. However, not in leadership roles.

*NMI is the program in the local church that informs local church members about cross-cultural ministry. In this way the local church is called to pray and give for Nazarene missions. NMI in the local church is the first place where Nazarenes hear about what the Lord is doing in other places, and where we see that the Spirit calls people to missionary service.*

**WWM:** *As missionaries, what has this ministry meant to you? Do you have any positive personal stories of how it has supported or impacted you and your work?*

**Aguilars:** [This ministry] connects us to our global church family. We have received letters and emails with prayers and greetings from local [ministry] presidents at just the right moment. Occasionally, a gift box arrives from our LINKS district

to cheer up our daughters. (LINKS is a network of personal connections between missionaries and Nazarene districts around the world.) On deputation, [these ministry leaders] and their churches have received us with open arms and we've shared and learned from each other during these visits. Ultimately, we appreciate Global Nazarene Missions International everyday, as the homes we've lived in were provided through Alabaster offerings given by local churches around the world. [This ministry] has encouraged us as missionaries.

**WWM:** *What do you believe is the ministry's role or purpose/responsibility in Eurasia?*

**Aguilars:** To incorporate Eurasia into the Church of the Nazarene's global mission to go where the church is not yet using practical training, equipping and recruiting to be an actively sending and supporting

# NMI: Aguilars seek to empower and equip mission leaders

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church.

**WWM: What is your vision or strategy for this ministry across the Eurasia Region?**

Aguilars: We're discovering needs and opportunities in local contexts through discussions with field leaders that will inform our strategy. At this early stage, we're seeing two objectives standing out: the potential of empowering a dynamic NMI team to implement plans, and of extensively connecting members of this ministry in the region.

**WWM: What will you focus on as leaders of this ministry in Eurasia?**

Aguilars: With the Lord's guidance, we hope to set a vision and goals for [this ministry in] Eurasia that will measurably inspire our Eurasian districts and local churches to be fruitful in global missions. We will serve our field NMI leaders to be equipped and empowered to serve districts and local churches as we reach these goals together.

**WWM: What do you want this ministry in Eurasia to look like or where do you want it to be in, say, 5 years?**

Aguilars: In 5 years, God willing, [this ministry] will have inspired more passion and commitment to the Great

Commission throughout Eurasia. Prayer for missions will be bolder. More young people will have been called and recruited to serve locally and sent globally. More districts and local churches will be actively hospitable and generous to Nazarene missionaries around the world.

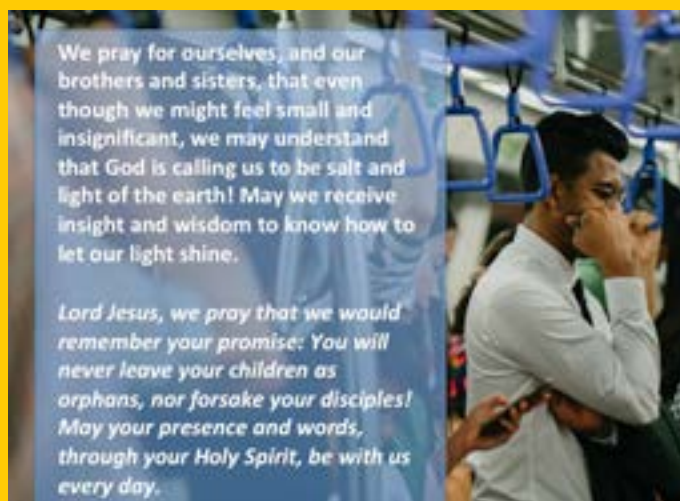
**WWM: How can Eurasian Nazarenes partner with or support you in your new role?**

Aguilars: Our members know their lands, their districts and churches. They know their potential to fulfill the Great Commission through our global denomination. We can only set a vision and goals based on their knowledge. So we ask our Nazarene family to let us know. This way we can guide [this ministry] with confidence.

**WWM: Why are you moving to Spain? What else will you be doing there?**

After five years in Portugal, a country and church we love, we're answering the call to serve in Spain. We'll be serving as pastors for the Pelicano Church in Madrid. We are excited to join this vibrant church in the heart of the city and follow the Lord towards new horizons for spreading the Gospel. □

## PRAY FOR THE INVISIBLE WORLD



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[NYI.WHDL.ORG](http://NYI.WHDL.ORG)

Nazarene Youth International's three core values are evangelism (BE), discipleship (DO), and leadership development (GO). We have resources to help youth and youth leaders navigate life and ministry in the context of these principles. Visit the websites above to download all of our free resources, including spoken word videos and scripts, discussion guides, graphics, and our three-book series, BE DO GO. English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French versions are available!

CALLING OUR GENERATION TO  
A DYNAMIC LIFE IN CHRIST







Local church

## Calvary Church in Chennai, India, raises funds to help other Indian churches

Funds raised through annual Thanksgiving fundraisers

By Rev. Rajiv Yangad

*In mid-August, the Calvary Church of the Nazarene, Chennai, India, raised 5.5 lakh (7,857 USD) Indian rupees to help the Peniel Church at Villpatti, Kodaikanal, begin construction on its own building.*

Since 2009, the 35-member Peniel church has met in a rented space. Though the church has purchased land, because the congregation members are daily wage earners, there is no way for them to pay for the materials to build their own sanctuary. Meeting for so long in a rented space hurt the membership, as the lack of a proper worship center led some members to move to other churches.

Raising funds for ministry projects through an August "Thanksgiving" fundraiser is an annual tradition for the 320-member Calvary Church.

"When I proposed this project to our church board, there was oneness of mind among all the members and they approved it with great joy," said Rev. Dr. C. S. Dhas, pastor of Calvary Church. "I constantly encourage

and challenge my congregation and the church board to meet the needs of various congregations of the Eastern Tamil Nadu District of the Church of the Nazarene, and when the need arises, they support it wholeheartedly."

Calvary Church of the Nazarene has long felt a responsibility for nurturing and partnering with other Nazarene churches across India. Under 37 years of Dhas's pastoral leadership, the congregation has planted several churches and initiatives that express God's love and holiness in their communities, leading many to give their lives to Jesus Christ.

Every year, in the first week of August, the 320-member church celebrates a Thanksgiving/Harvest festival in a traditional way: the congregation brings thanksgiving offerings in the form of various goods like vegetables and fruits, plants, handmade items and household utilities to the altar. The senior pastor prays over the items before they auction them back to the congregation. People joyously buy these things for a higher price (sometimes twice or three times) than the original value to express their gratitude to the Lord.

Previously, the Calvary church's Thanksgiving fundraiser has covered all the costs to build the Nazarene Ministry Centre

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# INDIA: Peniel church committed labor to project

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at Alamathi, the Bronell Greer Memorial Chapel and Parsonage, the Paula Greer Memorial Senior Citizen Center, and Watchman's Quarters, at Alamathi, in the outskirts of Chennai.

The church spends a month preparing for this special Thanksgiving weekend, including setting a fundraising goal. This year, the goal was 12.5 lakh rupees (17,857 USD).

The weekend started on Saturday evening with a short thanksgiving prayer, followed by the auction. On Sunday, the fundraiser continued as breakfast and snack stalls were set up outside the church building after the morning service. Sunday school children and youth conducted games. People purchased tokens from the church treasurer to buy food and drinks and play the games.

When 5.5 lakh rupees had been raised, Dhas challenged his congregation: "This is the work of the Lord, but 5.5 lakh is not going to be enough. We need 12.5 lakh. I know there are more generous people in the congregation who are blessed by the Lord and can donate towards this."

An immediate response from one of the members was, "I will donate 3 lakh rupees for this project."

Dr. Dhas says, "There are more who are willing to contribute, and hopefully the need will be met totally."

The congregation continues to reach for their goal.

When the Peniel church congregation heard of the possibility of having their own sanctuary

with finances provided by Calvary Church, they happily committed to providing their physical labor for this project.

Presently, Dhas is also the district superintendent of the Eastern Tamil Nadu District, a role he has filled for 18 years— from 1988 to 2004, and then 2018 to 19. He also served as superintendent of the Sri Lanka District from 2001 to 2008.

Dhas, through his district, is presently overseeing the pioneering work in Kerala with the help of a local leader Rev. Abraham Daniel. Calvary Church has been able to raise 1 lakh 6 thousand rupees for 2018 Kerala flood relief.

Dhas says, "A leader with the right vision and passion can motivate the congregation to be active in fulfilling the purpose." □

## British district pioneers gather for support and prayer

By Rev. Carl McCann

*On August 22, 2019 a new initiative took place on the British Isles South District: the Pioneers gathered!*

These are a group of people at the cutting edge of pioneering ministry in the United Kingdom. They came together at the District Family Holiday for some training, conversation, team building, testimony and prayer; also, to be exposed to the wider district family. Many hadn't met each other before and weren't aware of the others' ministries. It was like numerous small flames gathering together to form an inspirational raging fire of ministry.

Each ministry was at a different point on the journey towards becoming a fully organised Church of the Nazarene.

One is embryonic: a pastor had stepped out of healthy church ministry to simply start prayer walking around a housing estate to seek the will of God for the next step in ministry.

Another is a closed church building that had been kept open as a community facility and managed by a Nazarene church member. Her sense of calling and vision has grown and the beginnings of worship and discipleship are taking place weekly.

Another is a coffee house facility with over 30 community groups using their space, now planning membership classes for their first members.

Also in attendance were the leaders of a Korean church plant, which is using the chapel of Nazarene Theological College-Manchester and now has over 100 in regular attendance; it is running a compassionate ministry to destitute

asylum seekers in partnership with another already established Church of the Nazarene.

Two Portuguese-speaking church plants at different stages of development joined us, plus a Hungarian-Roma congregation; a fledgling Sudanese group; and the beginnings of an addiction recovery group.

After sharing testimony and prayer requests, other participants in the family holiday came forward to lay hands on them and pray for God's blessing and anointing.

All these ministries face significant challenges, even obstacles. There has been, and undoubtedly will continue to be, much heartache and persevering hard work. However, despite, and sometimes precisely because of this, inspirational seeds of hope have been planted and are bearing fruit. □

# 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)

*"Certainly the Lord does not forsake his people; he does not abandon the nation that belongs to him."*

*Psalms 94:14*

## Prayer requests

Please pray for the Aguilars as they move to a new place of local assignment in Spain, as well as take leadership over Eurasia Region NMI. Ask God to bless their adjustments to a new home and culture as a family, and grant wisdom, discernment and relationships in their regional leadership role.

Pray for Calvary Church of the Nazarene as it continues to fundraise toward its goal, with a calling to support and partner with other Nazarene churches and ministries in India. Ask God to open His storehouse of heavenly resources for the project to build a new church for the Peniel congregation.

Pray for the pioneering ministries and ministers in the British Isles South District, as they draw strength from fellowship, prayer and learning together. Ask God to bless and multiply the church planting movement.

## Where Worlds Meet

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

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