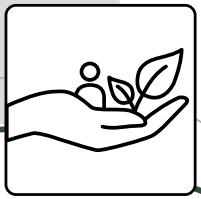
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
EURASIA

STRATEGIC WORKBOOK

Regional Gaps
Consolidated Master Document

Local Church Edition



Caring for Creation
and the Vulnerable

CARING FOR CREATION AND THE VULNERABLE

Three Day Consolidated Master Document

FOREWORD

This consolidated master document represents the full work of all table groups engaging with **Gap 5: Caring for Creation and the Vulnerable** during the Eurasia Regional Conference.

Together, participants explored how the Church can respond faithfully to the needs of vulnerable people and exercise responsible stewardship of God's creation through discipleship, compassionate ministry, community engagement, and practical action.

Across three days, leaders reflected, committed themselves to areas of engagement, prayed for discernment, collaborated, and identified clear ways to communicate these priorities and take practical next steps at local, district, and regional levels.

This combined document brings all contributions together in a unified, structured, and accessible format.

It is our prayer that this document, created collaboratively by the people of Eurasia, will resonate with the pastors and leaders of our local churches, and that conversations resulting in tangible action plans to close the gap will produce fruit that will last (John 15:16).

To God be the Glory!



Caring for the Creation and the Vulnerable

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DAY 1

Reflect

1. INTRODUCTIONS - Who we are and why this matters

Across all tables, people chose this gap because:

- Participants chose this gap because they see creation care, justice, discipleship, and care for vulnerable people as deeply interconnected.
- Many participants expressed concern about environmental destruction, consumerism, inequality, war, migration, and social fragmentation.
- Several groups connected creation care directly to holiness, compassion, stewardship, and visible Christian witness.
- Participants repeatedly emphasized that caring for creation is not peripheral to mission but part of faithful discipleship.

2. CONSEQUENCES & IMPACT - What does this gap look and why it matters?

- Environmental degradation is affecting vulnerable populations disproportionately.
- Consumerism, waste, pollution, and climate instability are shaping societies and communities.
- Churches risk irrelevance when disconnected from community needs and environmental realities.
- Young people increasingly expect ethical, sustainable, and compassionate leadership.
- Broken relationships between humanity, creation, and God contribute to social and spiritual fragmentation.

3. ROOT CAUSES & ENABLERS - How we got here

- Consumerism and materialism.
- Individualism and lack of community responsibility.
- Weak discipleship and shallow theological engagement with creation care.
- Political instability, war, and economic pressures.
- Fear, apathy, and resistance to change.
- Lack of awareness, education, and practical training.

4. WHAT IS WORKING/NOT WORKING?

Working

- Local compassion ministries and community initiatives.
- Environmental awareness among younger generations.
- Churches beginning conversations around sustainability and stewardship.

- Partnerships with schools, municipalities, NGOs, and local organizations.
- Not Working:
- Passive discipleship disconnected from practical action.
- Churches remaining inward-focused.
- Lack of long-term strategy and coordinated leadership.

Not working

- Passive discipleship disconnected from practical action.
- Churches remaining inward-focused.
- Lack of long-term strategy and coordinated leadership.
- Fear of difficult conversations and institutional inertia.

5. KEY CONCERNS, NEEDS, AND PAIN POINTS

- Need for discipleship rooted in stewardship and compassion.
- Need for practical education and awareness.
- Need for churches to become visible examples of care for creation and vulnerable people.
- Need for collaboration across sectors and generations.
- Need for stronger leadership, courage, and accountability.
- Need for communities of hope amid ecological and social anxiety.

6. OBSTACLES TO CHANGE

- Financial limitations and competing priorities.
- Resistance to behavioral and cultural change.
- Consumer habits and convenience-driven lifestyles.
- Lack of unified regional vision and strategy.
- Political and economic instability in several contexts.
- Limited theological reflection on creation care within churches.

7. SIGNS OF GOD AT WORK RIGHT NOW

- Younger generations showing passion for sustainability and justice.
- Churches engaging in gardening, recycling, community service, and environmental projects.
- Growing awareness of compassion and holistic mission.
- Leaders and churches beginning to integrate creation care into discipleship conversations.
- Partnerships forming between churches and wider communities.

8. WHAT GOD MIGHT WANT US TO DO TOGETHER

- Develop churches that embody holistic holiness and stewardship.
- Raise leaders who connect discipleship, justice, compassion, and creation care.
- Build practical local initiatives that transform neighborhoods.
- Encourage churches to become trusted community partners.
- Create intergenerational movements shaped by prayer, integrity, and compassionate action.

9. LOOKING AHEAD TO 2035 - What the future could look like

- Churches actively serving their communities and caring for creation.
- Creation care integrated into discipleship and leadership development.
- Reduced waste, stronger community life, and healthier local environments.
- Greater collaboration between churches, civic leaders, and organizations.
- A generation of leaders shaped by holiness, humility, stewardship, and courage.

10. WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST ABOUT THE FUTURE

- Churches becoming known for compassion, stewardship, and integrity.
- Young people leading with creativity and vision.
- Communities becoming healthier, more sustainable, and more connected.
- A more visible Christian witness rooted in action and service.
- Creation care becoming integrated into mission, discipleship, and holiness.

SUMMARY
The Day 1 discussions revealed a growing regional conviction that creation care is an essential expression of Christian discipleship and holistic mission, closely connected with evangelism, compassion, justice, stewardship, and care for vulnerable people. Participants envisioned churches becoming credible public witnesses through practical engagement with their communities while integrating creation care into discipleship, leadership development, and community transformation. They identified education, awareness, strategic partnerships, and the sharing of successful local initiatives as critical for equipping leaders and fostering long-term, sustainable impact across the Eurasia Region.

DAY 2

Collaborate +

1. HOW DO WE CLOSE THE GAP?

- Participants repeatedly emphasized discipleship as the central pathway toward creation care and care for vulnerable people.
- Practical action was prioritized over abstract discussion: recycling, gardening, reducing waste, environmental stewardship, local partnerships, and community service.
- Churches were encouraged to model visible change through sustainable practices and compassionate ministries.
- Participants stressed the importance of awareness, education, training, and consistent small actions that reshape habits and culture.
- Prayer, fasting, holiness, and spiritual formation were repeatedly connected to practical transformation.

2. HOW CAN REGIONAL PRIORITIES ADD DEPTH?

- Participants repeatedly connected creation care with Nazarene compassion and holistic mission.
- Regional collaboration, global connections, and shared learning were emphasized.
- Churches should intentionally support vulnerable communities affected by environmental degradation, poverty, war, migration, and inequality.
- Creation care was consistently linked to discipleship, evangelism, compassion, and community credibility.
- Participants emphasized the importance of contextual local initiatives supported by regional vision.

3. HOW CAN WE BUILD ON WHAT'S ALREADY WORKING?

- Existing compassion ministries, community programs, and discipleship structures provide a strong foundation.
- Many communities already practice recycling, gardening, sharing resources, and local care initiatives.
- Participants noted growing awareness among younger generations regarding sustainability and ethical living.
- Churches can build on successful examples already happening in Europe and other contexts.
- Storytelling and sharing practical examples were seen as important catalysts for wider engagement.

4. WHO COULD WE BE COLLABORATING WITH?

- Local churches and district leadership.
- Schools, universities, and theological institutions.
- Scientists, researchers, and environmental experts.
- Government officials and civic leaders.
- Businesses, investors, and community organizations.
- Families, children, youth, and local volunteers.
- Compassion ministries, NGOs, and regional networks.

5. WHAT IS NEEDED IN MY CONTEXT?

- Mindset change and long-term commitment.
- Practical discipleship that shapes everyday behavior.
- Leadership courage, clarity, and vision.
- Training, awareness, and theological education.
- Financial support and strategic planning.
- Cross-generational collaboration and inclusion.
- Local ownership rather than dependency.

6. DESIRED 2035 OUTCOMES

- Churches become known as caring, trustworthy, community-centered witnesses.
- Creation care becomes integrated into discipleship rather than treated as an optional ministry.
- Communities experience greater inclusion, equality, sustainability, and compassion.
- Young people are attracted to churches demonstrating authenticity, stewardship, and practical holiness.
- Churches influence public conversations about justice, stewardship, ethics, and vulnerable people.
- Local churches become visible centers of hope, healing, education, and environmental responsibility.

7. COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS GOD IS CALLING US TO

- Develop discipleship pathways integrating creation care, compassion, stewardship, and justice.
- Build partnerships with civic leaders, scientists, educators, NGOs, businesses, and environmental organizations.
- Create local practical initiatives such as food projects, recycling programs, environmental cleanups, and compassion ministries.
- Empower churches to become visible examples of sustainable and compassionate living.
- Raise leaders who can bridge theology, science, ethics, and community engagement.

SUMMARY

The Day 2 discussions highlighted a strong regional conviction that holiness should be lived out through practical discipleship, visible compassion, and faithful stewardship of both people and creation. Participants emphasized that churches become credible witnesses when they serve their communities with integrity, address social and environmental challenges, and care for vulnerable people. To support this vision, they identified the need for practical discipleship resources, leadership development, community partnerships, and the sharing of transformational stories, envisioning churches that are spiritually vibrant, socially engaged, and shaped by the holistic mission of the Kingdom of God.

DAY 3

Communicate +

1. REFLECT - What We Have Learned

- Creation care and caring for vulnerable people are central expressions of Christian faith.
- Small, consistent actions can make a lasting difference.
- Mindset change and practical action are essential for lasting impact.
- Creation care should be part of everyday Christian living.
- Churches should respond to local needs by listening to their communities.
- Social and environmental challenges are interconnected.
- Collaboration strengthens impact and Christian witness.
- Hope is growing through increased awareness, engagement, and partnership.
- Key message: Ordinary people, taking faithful steps together, can transform communities and reflect the Kingdom of God.

2. COMMIT – Where God Is Calling Us To Engage

- Participants sensed God calling the Church to engage at every level—personally, within families, local churches, districts, and communities.
- Live it personally: Adopt sustainable daily habits, care for creation, support local communities, teach the next generation, and model compassion through everyday actions.
- Strengthen the local church: Integrate creation care and compassion into discipleship, preaching, ministries, and practical community outreach.
- Serve the community: Identify local needs, care for vulnerable people, and build partnerships with organisations, other churches, and local experts.
- Work together regionally: Share resources, encourage collaboration, develop leaders, raise awareness, and strengthen networks that equip churches for effective ministry.

3. PRAYER – Discernment, Spiritual Guidance & Healthy Collaboration

- Prayer was recognised as essential for lasting change, shaping hearts, guiding action, and strengthening relationships.
- Seek God's guidance to recognise local needs, opportunities, and meaningful partnerships.
- Allow prayer to transform hearts, attitudes, and church culture, so that compassion, stewardship, and hope become visible in daily life.
- Ask for courage and faithfulness to move beyond discussion and take action, even when progress is slow.
- Pray for peace, protection, and dignity for vulnerable communities, including children, women, displaced people, and those affected by conflict.

- Strengthen unity and healthy collaboration among churches, ministries, and generations, replacing competition and separation with partnership and shared purpose.
- Discern and nurture fruitful relationships that build bridges of reconciliation and avoid duplication or control.
- Empower women, young people, and children to participate meaningfully in God's mission.
- Become a community that reflects God's Kingdom, where reconciliation, compassion, responsible care for creation, and hope are demonstrated through shared life and action.

4. COMMUNICATE - How will leaders share this?

- Leaders are called to communicate these priorities through teaching, example, relationships, and practical opportunities for participation.
- Teach creation care as part of biblical discipleship and holiness, showing that it is an essential expression of faithful Christian stewardship.
- Communicate with hope and encouragement, avoiding fear, blame, or political language.
- Share stories of local action and transformation to inspire participation and demonstrate impact.
- Connect care for creation with care for people, especially those affected by poverty, conflict, and environmental challenges.
- Equip all generations through children's ministries, youth activities, family gatherings, and accessible teaching resources.
- Provide practical steps that individuals and churches can easily apply.
- Encourage leaders and churches to include creation care and compassion in regular planning and ministry.
- Use diverse communication tools such as sermons, presentations, videos, drama, and digital platforms.
- Strengthen learning and collaboration by sharing ideas, resources, and experiences across churches and districts.
- Invite community voices and expertise through partnerships with local organisations and specialists.
- Celebrate progress and encourage continued action, recognising that small steps matter.
- Lead by example: Effective communication happens when leaders teach, practise, model, and invite others into a shared life of stewardship and compassion.

5. NEXT STEPS – Regional and Local Actions

A. Regional Actions

- Develop resources with biblical foundations, practical tools, and local examples.
- Integrate creation care and compassion into leadership, discipleship, and ministry training.
- Build networks to connect leaders, churches, and ministry partners.
- Share good practices and encourage contextual district action plans.
- Strengthen partnerships with organisations and community initiatives.
- Create awareness materials and promote an annual regional emphasis.

B. District Actions

- Appoint leaders or teams to coordinate the initiative.
- Encourage churches to take practical action.
- Provide training through district gatherings and ministry events.
- Identify needs and partnerships within local communities.
- Support collaboration and shared projects between churches.
- Include creation care and compassion in district planning.

C. Local Church Actions

- Within the Next Three Months
- Engage leaders and members in prayer, discussion, and action.
- Identify local needs and begin one practical initiative.
- Form a small team to coordinate efforts.
- Include the theme in preaching, teaching, and discipleship.
- Involve children and young people.

Within the Next Twelve Months

- Develop a local action plan and ongoing activities.
- Build community partnerships and train volunteers.
- Connect creation care with mission, discipleship, and compassion.
- Share progress and move toward lasting lifestyle changes.

SUMMARY
The strongest shared proposal is to build a relational, discipleship-based movement of local churches that care for creation and vulnerable people through practical action, collaborative partnerships, and visible Christian witness.
The priority is not to launch another large regional programme. It is to equip churches to begin locally, act faithfully, learn from one another, and allow small steps to grow into a regional culture of stewardship and compassion.

NOTES

EURASIA REGIONAL OFFICE

ero@eurasiaregion.org
www.eurasiaregion.org

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
EURASIA