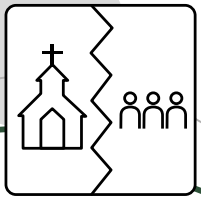
CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
EURASIA

STRATEGIC WORKBOOK

Regional Gaps
Consolidated Master Document

Local Church Edition



Secularism

SECULARISM

Three Day Consolidated Master Document

FOREWORD

This consolidated master document represents the full work of all table groups engaging with **Gap 6: Secularism** during the Eurasia Regional Conference.

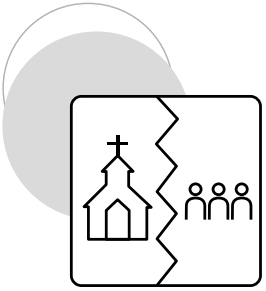
Together, participants explored how the Church can remain faithful to the gospel and communicate the message of Christ meaningfully within societies increasingly shaped by secular values, religious indifference, individualism, and declining confidence in institutions.

Across three days, leaders reflected, committed themselves to areas of engagement, prayed for discernment, collaborated, and identified clear ways to communicate the gospel with integrity, strengthen Christian discipleship, and equip local churches to engage their communities with wisdom, credibility, and hope.

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!



Secularism

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DAY 1: REFLECT

1. **Introductions** – Who we are and why this matters....5
2. **Consequences and impact** – What the gap looks like and why it matters....5
3. **Root causes and enablers** – How we got here....5
4. **What is working/Not working?**....5
5. **Key concerns, needs, and pain points**....6
6. **Obstacles to change**....6
7. **Signs of God at work right now**....6
8. **What God might want us to do together**....6
9. **Looking ahead to 2035** – What the future could look like....7
10. **What excites you most**....7

DAY 2: COLLABORATE

1. **How do we close the gap?**....9
2. **How can regional priorities add depth?**....9
3. **How can we build on what is already working?**....10
4. **Who could we be collaborating with?**....10
5. **What is needed in my context?**....10
6. **Desired 2035 outcomes**....11
7. **Collaborative solutions God is calling us to**....11

DAY 3: COMMUNICATE

1. **Reflect** – What we have learned....13
2. **Commit** – Where God is calling us to engage....13
3. **Prayer** – Where is God leading?....13
4. **Communicate** – How will leaders share this?....13
5. **Next steps** – What will happen in the next 3-12 moths?....14

OVERALL THEMES ACROSS ALL TABLES....14

DAY 1

Reflect

1. INTRODUCTIONS - Who we are and why this matters

Across all tables, people chose this gap because:

- it is one of the most visible and rapidly growing realities across Eurasia.
- Representatives from the UK, Germany, Portugal, Scotland, Ukraine, Hungary, Central Europe, and other contexts described declining religious affiliation and growing distance from Christian faith.
- Many expressed concern that younger generations are growing up with little biblical knowledge, limited church exposure, and increasing skepticism toward Christianity.
- Participants consistently viewed secularism as both a cultural and discipleship challenge.

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

- Loss of biblical literacy and Christian worldview formation.
- Faith increasingly viewed as private, irrelevant, or optional.
- Reduced church participation and weakened intergenerational transmission of faith.
- Growing loneliness, anxiety, identity confusion, and search for meaning.
- Weaker Christian influence within education, media, public life, and culture.

3. ROOT CAUSES & ENABLERS - How we got here

- Consumerism, materialism, and individualism.
- Cultural narratives that prioritize autonomy and self-definition.
- Digital saturation and fragmented communities.
- Declining trust in institutions, including churches.
- Weak discipleship and insufficient faith formation.
- Historical failures of Christian institutions and cultural Christianity without deep discipleship.

4. WHAT IS WORKING/NOT WORKING?

Working

- relational evangelism, authentic friendships, compassionate service, community engagement, small-group discipleship, and visible Christian witness.
- churches building bridges through hospitality, listening, and meaningful dialogue.

Not working

- Not Working: inward-focused churches, program-centered ministry without relationships, and approaches that assume biblical literacy.
- Not Working: reliance on attractional models that no longer connect with secular populations.

5. KEY CONCERNS, NEEDS, AND PAIN POINTS

- Need for deeper discipleship rather than superficial affiliation.
- Need to equip believers to engage secular culture confidently and graciously.
- Need for authentic Christian community that addresses loneliness and isolation.
- Need for churches to communicate the gospel in language people can understand.
- Need for renewed holiness, integrity, and credibility in Christian witness.

6. OBSTACLES TO CHANGE

- Fear of rejection and cultural marginalization.
- Lack of confidence in faith conversations.
- Limited understanding of secular worldviews.
- Political polarization and ideological fragmentation.
- Churches struggling to adapt methods while remaining faithful to the gospel.
- Resource limitations and competing ministry priorities.

7. SIGNS OF GOD AT WORK RIGHT NOW

- Growing spiritual curiosity despite declining institutional religion.
- New opportunities for conversations about meaning, identity, hope, and purpose.
- Young adults seeking authentic community and belonging.
- Churches experimenting with fresh expressions of mission and discipleship.
- Increasing openness to relationship-centered witness.

8. WHAT GOD MIGHT WANT US TO DO TOGETHER

- Raise churches that embody visible holiness and compassionate presence.
- Develop disciples who can articulate and live the gospel naturally in secular contexts.
- Build communities where belonging creates pathways to believing.
- Strengthen intergenerational faith formation.
- Create new missional expressions capable of engaging post-Christian societies.

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

- Churches are recognized as centers of hope, belonging, and transformation.
- Believers confidently integrate faith into everyday life.
- Stronger discipleship cultures produce mature followers of Christ.
- Christian witness is visible throughout communities rather than confined to church buildings.
- A new generation has embraced mission, holiness, and community engagement.

10. WHAT EXCITES YOU MOST

- People encountering Jesus through authentic relationships.
- Churches becoming trusted contributors to community flourishing.
- A renewed confidence in the gospel among younger generations.
- Visible Christian communities marked by holiness, compassion, and hope.
- The possibility of spiritual awakening emerging from cultural emptiness.

SUMMARY

The discussions revealed a growing regional conviction that secularism is primarily a discipleship challenge that requires authentic relationships, visible Christian witness, and contextual mission rather than institutional responses alone. Participants emphasized the importance of integrating biblical literacy, worldview formation, relational evangelism, and intergenerational discipleship into the Church's mission while equipping leaders to engage secular cultures with credibility and compassion. The emerging vision is of churches that are deeply rooted in Christ, actively serving their communities, and offering hope, meaning, and transformation through faithful, incarnational living.

DAY 2

Collaborate
+

1. HOW DO WE CLOSE THE GAP?

A. Reclaim Christian Identity & Witness
- Help the church recover confidence in the gospel.
- Form communities that visibly embody the Kingdom.
- Move from private belief to public witness.

B. Discipleship & Spiritual Formation
- Deep discipleship rather than superficial belief.
- Intentional formation of children, youth, and emerging leaders.
- Prayer, holiness, and spiritual disciplines as foundational practices.

C. Relational & Community Engagement
- Build authentic community before expecting belief.
- Create welcoming spaces for questions, belonging, and dialogue.
- Strengthen relationships between church and society.

D. Communication & Digital Engagement
- Utilize digital ministry and online platforms wisely.
- Train believers to communicate faith in secular environments.
- Tell compelling stories of transformed lives.

E. Leadership Development
- Equip leaders to navigate secular cultures confidently.
- Develop mentoring pathways and intergenerational leadership.

2. HOW CAN REGIONAL PRIORITIES ADD DEPTH?
- Strengthen Next Generation ministries and leadership pipelines.
- Contextualize evangelism and discipleship for secular societies.
- Invest in digital ministry, training, and communication.
- Create regional resource hubs and shared learning networks.
- Encourage collaboration across churches, districts, fields, and ministries.
- Build a culture of prayerful dependence and Spirit-led mission.

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

- Existing community engagement initiatives.
- Digital outreach and online discipleship efforts.
- Healthy local churches demonstrating authentic faith.
- Collaborative ministry between churches and leaders.
- Growing awareness of the challenges and opportunities of secularism.
- Examples of effective witness through relationships and service.

4. WHO COULD WE BE COLLABORATING WITH?

Internal Nazarene Partners

- Local churches, districts, fields, and regional ministries.
- NDI, NYI, NCM, educational institutions, and ministry networks.

External Partners

- Other evangelical churches and denominations.
- Community organizations and service agencies.
- Educators, civic leaders, and practitioners working for community good.

Collaborative Practices

- Shared training initiatives.
- Joint service projects.
- Resource sharing and mentoring relationships.

5. WHAT IS NEEDED IN MY CONTEXT?

1. Courageous Christian Witness
   - Confidence in the gospel.
   - Willingness to engage culture without compromise.

2. Deep Discipleship
   - Strong biblical foundations.
   - Formation that shapes character and worldview.

3. Community & Belonging
- Authentic relationships.
- Hospitable environments where people can explore faith.

4. Leadership Capacity
- Trained leaders equipped for secular contexts.
- Mentors and role models for younger generations.

5. Innovation & Adaptation
- Creative outreach approaches.
- Effective use of technology and communication tools.

6. DESIRED 2035 OUTCOMES

People
- Followers of Jesus living confident, authentic faith.
- Younger generations embracing Christian identity.

Churches
- Churches known as welcoming, disciple-making communities.
- Strong intergenerational leadership and healthy ministry cultures.
- Faith naturally discussed in everyday life.

Communities & Region
- The church recognized as a positive force for good.
- Greater openness to spiritual conversations.
- Strong networks of collaboration and mission.
- A visible, compelling Christian presence throughout Eurasia's secular contexts.

7. COLLABORATIVE SOLUTIONS GOD IS CALLING US TO
- Building compelling Christian communities.
- Investing intentionally in children, youth, and young adults.
- Strengthening discipleship pathways.
- Expanding digital and relational ministry.
- Equipping believers for everyday witness.
- Collaborating across ministries, churches, and regions.
- Listening carefully to people and contexts while remaining rooted in the gospel.

DAY 3

Communicate

1. REFLECT – What We Have Learned

- Secularism is not primarily an external threat but a discipleship challenge within the church.
- The church must reconnect vertically with God and horizontally with people.
- Christian witness is most credible when it is embodied in community life.
- Many secular people are searching for meaning, belonging, purpose, and authenticity.
- The gap cannot be closed through programs alone; it requires transformed lives.
- The Holy Spirit is already at work drawing people toward Christ.

2. COMMIT – Where God Is Calling Us To Engage

- Engage children, youth, and families intentionally.
- Build authentic relationships before expecting belief.
- Model Christian life publicly and transparently.
- Create spaces where questions, doubts, and spiritual conversations are welcomed.
- Develop small groups, mentoring relationships, and discipleship pathways.
- Encourage believers to share faith naturally in everyday life.
- Equip leaders and congregations to engage secular culture with confidence and grace.

3. PRAYER – Where is God leading?

- Toward deeper dependence upon the Holy Spirit.
- Toward renewal, repentance, and spiritual awakening.
- Toward communities that reflect the character of Christ.
- Toward courageous witness in increasingly secular societies.
- Toward unity across generations and ministry groups.
- Toward greater openness to God's voice and direction.

4. COMMUNICATE – How will leaders share this?

- Through preaching, teaching, testimonies, and storytelling.
- Through personal relationships and everyday conversations.
- Through digital ministry, social media, and online engagement.
- Through community service, hospitality, and visible acts of compassion.
- Through mentoring, discipleship groups, and intergenerational relationships.
- Through collaboration with churches, ministries, and community organizations.

5. NEXT STEPS – What will happen in the next 3–12 months?

- Launch or strengthen small groups and discipleship communities.
- Increase intentional engagement with children, youth, and young adults.
- Develop training for believers in faith-sharing and apologetics.
- Create opportunities for community connection and service.
- Build mentoring structures for emerging leaders.
- Strengthen prayer initiatives focused on secular communities.
- Expand digital outreach and communication efforts.
- Encourage practical experiments in local church witness and engagement.

OVERALL THEMES ACROSS ALL TABLES

- Discipleship remains the primary answer to secularism.
- Community is one of the church's strongest apologetics.
- Authentic Christian witness carries greater influence than institutional messaging.
- The next generation is central to closing the gap.
- Prayer and dependence on the Holy Spirit are essential.
- Churches must move from attractional thinking toward relational engagement.
- Collaboration across ministries, churches, and generations will accelerate impact.
- The desired future is a church that is visible, credible, compassionate, and confidently Christian in the public square.

NOTES

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EURASIA