RESOURCE BOOKLET








CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

EURASIA

INTRODUCTION

Thinking Deeply:
Some Key Conversations for the Church of the Nazarene in Eurasia

Jesus calls us to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:36). Yet Christians can sometimes feel reluctant to question, wrestle with Scripture, examine our theology, or explore difficult ethical issues. But thinking deeply is not a lack of faith—it is part of faithful discipleship, as we seek God's truth.

At the recent Eurasia Regional Conference, we explored some of the critical challenges and opportunities facing our region and the global church by 2050. Five papers, presented during a Theology Day, focused on urgent issues in our context: secularism, creation care and the environment, integrity, refugees and asylum seekers, and discipleship in a digital world.

Drawing on voices from across our region, each paper explored the current reality, imagined a faithful future, and considered how we might «close the gap» between the two.

These papers are presented here together with questions for personal reflection or small-group discussion. May they encourage us to love God not only with our hearts, but also with our minds—and to turn thoughtful reflection into faithful action.

Thank you for taking the time to love God with your mind!



Revd Antonie Holleman
FSC, DS and Eurasia
Education Coordinator



Dr. Peter S. Rae
Co-Education Coordinator

CONTENT

How to do church and discipleship in a digital age and engaging the next generation 4

Wesleyan Witness in the Midst of Secular Ways of Life 6

God on the Move: Jesus, the Traveller, Stranger, and Refuge in John 1:1-18 8

Caring for Creation and the Vulnerable 10

Developing Leaders of Christian Character: Integrity and Anti-corruption 12

Nazarene Colleges in the Region 14

HOW TO DO CHURCH AND DISCIPLESHIP IN A DIGITAL AGE AND ENGAGING THE NEXT GENERATION

GAPS THAT GO ALONG WITH THIS PAPER





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to read the paper

QUESTIONS TO REFLECT

1. How can technology advance evangelism and discipleship? What are some good practices?

2. How can we use technology ethically and responsibly? How can our digital choices reflect social and ecological care?

3. Why are face-to-face relationships important for spiritual growth? How can we use digital tools without replacing personal connections?

4. How can we better engage and disciple younger generations while encouraging mature and responsible digital habits?

A Closing Challenge: *What is one practical step we can take to move beyond digital reach and build deeper, life-changing relationships?*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

REVD. DR WOLFGANG KOHLER
Cluster Chair and Lecturer in Biblical Studies (EuNC)

Wolfgang completed his PhD at Heidelberg University in the Old Testament Studies, completing a dissertation entitled «The Hardening of Israel in the Book of Isaiah. Study of a Theological Motif.» As well as an MA in Christianity and Culture, he holds and MSc in Applied Computer Science, and uses both of these in his two lines of work: first, as a Software developer in Lueneburg, and second, since 2014, as a senior lecturer, Learning Centre Coordinator, and 'Cluster Chair' in Biblical Studies, for European Nazarene College.

Wolfgang was ordained as an elder in 2016. He speaks German, English, Polish and Dutch, alongside his knowledge of Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. He's a passionate cyclist, and loves football.

As well as teaching at EuNC, he is a graduate of the College. He comments, «I was impacted by getting to know Christians from many different countries and cultures and understand their background beyond the surface, which is only possible when interacting with each other in day-to-day situations. During my time at EuNC, my conviction grew that there is power in Scripture and that it is the source of every spiritual renewal. This became my motivation to do further studies in the area of biblical studies and eventually, become a Bible teacher.»

WESLEYAN WITNESS IN THE MIDST OF SECULAR WAYS OF LIFE

GAPS THAT GO ALONG WITH THIS PAPER



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QUESTIONS TO REFLECT

1. What practices or ways of life in your community reflect secular values? How do they shape what people love and value?

2. How can Wesleyan-Holiness theology shape our response to secularism? What does a Jesus-shaped way of life look like today?

3. What practices could your church adopt to cultivate deep, communal holiness and resist secular values?

4. How is Christian witness weakened when political influence takes priority over discipleship and mercy? How could your church or small group make works of mercy more central?

5. If someone observed your church for a month, what would they learn about what you truly value? How could your community offer a compelling alternative to the surrounding culture?

A Closing Challenge: *Identify one practical way you can embody God's love through a «work of mercy» this week.*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

REVD. DR. JACOB LETT
Vice Principal (Academics), Dean of the Faculty, and Senior Lecturer in Theology (NTC)

I joined the faculty of Nazarene Theological College in the summer of 2021. I was «thrown into» (Heidegger's geworfen) theology while living in remote region of Asia. It was in my interactions with people from various Asian minority areas that I was confronted with the strangeness of Christian ideas and developed a passion for testing the elasticity of Christian theology. The questions that arose during our time in Asia led me to pursue theological research at NTC as a MA and a PhD student and continue to inform the way I theologize.

I teach and supervise research in the areas of theology, historical theology, and contextual/integrative theology. My recent research is on Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar. I have published articles and a book on his Christology.

When I'm not in the office, I'm with my family: Whitney and our children, Rowan and Beatrice. We spend most of our time walking in parks, riding bikes, reading, tree watching, and gardening. I also roast my own coffee, and, when I had spare time before having kids, I enjoyed woodworking and remodelling our home.

GOD ON THE MOVE: JESUS, THE TRAVELLER, STRANGER, AND REFUGE IN JOHN 1:1-18

GAPS THAT GO ALONG WITH THIS PAPER

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QUESTIONS TO REFLECT

1. How can we understand the journey motif in the Bible—both literally and figuratively—in light of the lived experiences of refugees and asylum seekers today? What might be the implications of Jesus's lived experience and bodily presence on earth for the real-life refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants who travel to unknown places?

2. What might Jesus' invitation mean for settlers, residents, and Christ followers today? What might be the implications of joining the journey as strangers and travellers while living as residents or settlers in our contemporary context?

3. In what aspects does the power or authority in John 1:12 differ from the power and authority of the world or empire?

4. In what practical ways does your local church community embody Jesus' way of responding to a hostile or resistant world?

A Closing Challenge: *How can we become a place of belonging for those who feel like strangers? Take one practical step this week to welcome someone and make them feel at home.*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

REVD. DR. MIJA WI
Lecturer in Biblical Studies and Global Mission (NTC)

Although originally from South Korea, I have journeyed through diverse countries, such as Bangladesh, the Philippines, and the UK, as a mission practitioner and as an academic. Some of my cross-cultural mission and ministerial experience include working with Operation Mobilization in Bangladesh while living with a Bengali family and initiating and pastoring a Nazarene house church in a Manila slum. The experience of living as a «resident alien» while seeking a «home» in various countries has profoundly shaped my identity and how I engage with God and the Bible.

My lived experience in Bangladesh and the Philippines led me to explore the meaning of the scriptural expression, 'good news to the poor' in Luke's Gospel, both in its biblical context and considering its implications in today's world, as my doctoral research (The Path to Salvation in Luke's Gospel: What Must We Do? London: T&T Clark, 2019) . Continuing my journey as a «resident alien» in the UK, I have been exploring the intersection of my multiple identities—East Asian woman, church minister, and Bible teacher. At the heart of this exploration is Bridging Worlds, a Centre for those seeking to find a «home» or «community» in Christ while navigating the complexities of multiple (or hyphenated) identities. I am interested in a wide range of fields, such as wealth and poverty in the NT, the intersection of the Bible and mission, Diaspora and global Christianities, and various Asian approaches to biblical interpretation.

Besides teaching and directing the Centre at NTC, I am involved in ministering in a Korean (and International) Nazarene congregation with my husband, Eun Ho.

CARING FOR CREATION AND THE VULNERABLE

GAPS THAT GO ALONG WITH THIS PAPER

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QUESTIONS TO REFLECT

1. Why is environmental care sometimes seen as separate from the Church's mission? How can sustainability become part of Christian discipleship?

2. How can we include creation care in our worship and church life? What does caring for the vulnerable mean in the face of environmental change?

3. What does Christian mission look like in times of climate change?

4. Why should conversations about environmental responsibility be shaped by grace and hope rather than guilt and fear?

5. How can the Church offer hope amid ecological crisis and encourage practical care for creation?

6. If sustainable living is part of holiness, how might God be calling us to change not only what we believe, but how we live?

A Closing Challenge: *Think of one small, practical change YOU could make this week that reflects a commitment to caring for creation and the vulnerable.*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

FRANK HOLLEMAN
Author and Sustainability Missionary

Frank Holleman is the founder of Fork Ranger, an organization that turns research about climate change and food into practical tips and recipes. He wrote the book Solving Climate Change with Food. As the son of two pastors, he truly found his calling as a 'pastor for sustainability' and regularly speaks about the connection between food, climate change, and 'The Good Life.'

Heartbreaking – this is how Frank describes his feelings the moment he truly realized the consequences of climate change: for humanity, for the earth and for his own environment. Frank grew up in Switzerland, and is fascinated by mountains and glaciers, especially the Aletsch Glacier, the largest in Europe.

In his presentations, Frank playfully makes it clear how easy it is to start making an impact today. As in a video game, you start at level 1 and not immediately at 3.

DEVELOPING LEADERS OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER: INTEGRITY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

GAPS THAT GO ALONG WITH THIS PAPER

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QUESTIONS TO REFLECT

1. Where do you see dishonesty or compromise becoming normal? How can Christians maintain integrity when doing so comes at a cost?

2. How can our faith shape a countercultural approach to integrity across different cultures and contexts?

3. Why is there sometimes a gap between Christian values and practice? How can churches lead, make decisions and address corruption with grace, accountability and a commitment to restoration?

4. Which of the four Operation Nehemiah pillars is most often neglected? How could we strengthen it?

5. Why can accountability be uncomfortable in church settings? How can we become more transparent, accountable and trustworthy?

A Closing Challenge: *Identify one area of your leadership, ministry or work where you can demonstrate greater integrity this week.*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ARPIT WAGHMARE
Executive Secretary (SIBS)

Arpit Waghmare is the National Coordinator of the Operation Nehemiah (ON) movement – a holistic movement for Financial Integrity for church and missions in India – bringing the best expertise from lay Christians, in different organisational areas, to help churches and missions build effective organisations with integrity.

In this capacity Arpit also serves on the executive committee of the Lausanne movement's Global Integrity Network (GIN), and is currently the board chair of the Evangelical Financial Accountability Council (EFAC) out of which has come the peer accountability group for India called NobleRank.

Originally from the Church of North India, Arpit has also led three church plants in Mumbai – in English and in Hindi – between 2002–2006. An engineering graduate, with a management degree, He also holds an MA in Theological Studies from SAIACS.

Arpit is passionate about integrating the gospel of Jesus into everyday life and believes that the most important calling and challenge is to become like Jesus, and therefore busy exploring how this works in all the different spheres he is engaged in – family, work, church, art (music) and business.

He is married to Shilpa who is a counsellor and writer, specialising in healing from sexual abuse and trauma through creative therapy. They have two daughters – Tiara and Kezia – both of whom are professional musicians.

EUROPEAN NAZARENE COLLEGE (EUNC)

EuNC is one school in many nations, a decentralised vocational college of theology and ministry in the Wesleyan-Arminian theological tradition. It offers programmes at the certificate, diploma and advanced diploma levels utilising face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online delivery in 14 different languages through 17 Learning Centres.

Rector:
Revd. Mária Gusztinné Tulipán

NAZARENE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

NTC in Manchester, England, has a global reach, serving students throughout Great Britain, but also in all world regions. This cross-cultural community is preparing leaders for a range of ministry roles with Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees, in partnership with the University of Manchester. NTC offers accredited programmes both on campus and online.

Principal:
Revd. Dr. Deirdre Brower

Nazarene Colleges in the Region

THE NAZARENE NURSES TRAINING COLLEGE (NNTC)

NNTC is based in Washim, India. It is a sister institution to the Reynolds Memorial Hospital, founded in 1936, from the work of Dr. Orpha Speicher. Then, in 1946, Ms Jean Darling started a nursing course. Currently, NNTC has a total intake of 200 students in the B.Sc. in Nursing (4 years) and the Auxiliary Nursing and Midwifery course (2 years).

Principal:
Dr. Jaya Pranoykumar Gawai

SOUTH ASIA NAZARENE BIBLE COLLEGE (SANBC)

SANBC is a decentralised network of educators and learning centres in which hundreds of people across India and South Asia undergo a three (or more) year course of study that prepares them for ordination, pastoring local churches or serving in other forms of leadership, including compassionate ministries and education.

Acting Principals:
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