

where WORLDS meet

the monthly newsletter for the church of the nazarene in eurasia
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Greetings from the Regional Director

Spring greetings from your Eurasia Region. May has been an exciting month in the history of the region.

We started the month with inspiring meetings in India where the South Asia Leadership Team (SALT) gathered to review their strategic goals, praise God for the results accomplished, and commit to the future. Even though their goals are incredibly big, they were able to achieve, and even surpass, most of them during the past year!

While in South Asia, during the farewell to our good friends and servant leaders, Dr. Daniel and Carol Ketchum, we had the opportunity to celebrate the first graduation of South Asia Nazarene Bible College. Our educators did such an outstanding job celebrating the accomplishment of the first seventy-seven graduates of, what we anticipate, will be a harvest of thousands of graduates in the years to come.

And, while we celebrated the successes of our evangelism and theological education efforts, Nazarene leaders in the neighboring island of Sri Lanka inaugurated the second phase of the rehabilitation plan for the victims of the South Asia Tsunami. The Tsunami Rehabilitation Center in Sri Lanka was dedicated with the participation of national, field, and regional leaders, as well as the appreciation of the local authorities.

These exciting stories provided the environment for our first District Development Consultation. Consistent with our strategic directions, we met in the Netherlands with the purpose of defining the characteristics of a

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Youth Grow Together at CIS Conference

by Simone Finney
eurasia region

Volgograd, Russia—To call the trip to Volgograd “long” would be an understatement. It’s an 18-hour train ride from Moscow, plus another eight from St. Petersburg. From Ukraine, it’s almost 24 hours by bus, and coming from Kazakstan, it’s easier to just count the train travel in days (three). From Armenia it’s only two hours—but you have to fly.

Geographically, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is the largest field in the world, and the distance is one of the challenges that local youth leadership has been praying through in recent months.

But the 150 youth from across the field who converged on a campground outside Volgograd May 6-9 for the 4th CIS Field Nazarene Youth Conference (NYC) didn’t come half-heartedly. Between worship sessions, seminars, group discussions and games, the students enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to deepen their relationships with God and with one another.



volgograd, russia

“This week, people were opening themselves to God and were not feeling ashamed,” said Artyom Korotkov of Kazakstan. “I liked the prayer, the worship at the evening services, and especially the sermons. It was a really spiritual time—so many people came into the presence of God.”

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SANBC Holds First Registered Graduation

by John Haines
eurasia region

Bangalore, India—On 1 May, South Asia Nazarene Bible College (SANBC) handed diplomas to its first ever graduating class. Seventy-seven graduates from across the vast field of South Asia received their degree in Pastoral Ministry, the culmination of their study and practice in preparation for ordained ministry. Within the year, as many as 120 more students hope to complete their course of study, and will be ready for graduation at their district assemblies.

With the significant church growth that has occurred in South Asia during the past decade, hundreds of pastors, teachers, healthcare workers and compassionate ministry workers need to be trained, graduated and deployed for diverse ministries. SANBC submitted its official Course of Study to the Regional and International Course of Study Advisory Committees in 2005. With the approval of that Course of Study, the school is now making preparation for an official approach for accreditation. The future looks very bright!

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Extreme MAKEOVER UKRAINE

south america region communications

From 30 April to 13 May, the international Church of the Nazarene profoundly impacted the small town of Turbov, Ukraine, located four hours west of Kiev. One hundred thirteen participants from Russia, Armenia, USA, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica and Venezuela, joined with their Ukrainian brothers and sisters in Christ to help establish a new mission and support outreach programs through construction, evangelism, children's and sports ministries.

During the Extreme Makeover Project, more than half of the team worked on the construction and/or restoration of six buildings, including one on the Turbov alcohol rehabilitation center. Each day, small groups dispersed throughout the city to share the Gospel in the streets.

Children's activities with puppets, clowns, songs, dramas and stories were held nearly every afternoon. On several occasions, part of the group was involved in sports ministry with the local youth from two schools. After classes they played basketball, soccer, volleyball and even a little bit of American football. Then they gathered everyone together and presented the Gospel.

Friendships were forged, and as a result, at least twenty-six of these young people accepted Christ.

One afternoon, Pastor Les Moore from Idaho Falls, Idaho was invited to speak to a crowd of at least 1,000 in a city park as they celebrated their national independence. Each night, an evangelistic service was held, featuring "fantastic music with an international flair" and "stirring" messages. Even many of the translators noted a difference in this group and accepted Christ as their Savior. Through the various outreach ministries, more than 200 persons accepted Christ, and a Nazarene mission was planted during the project.

The Ukrainian couple Vova and Marina are now pastoring the new mission and discipling the new believers.



CIS: More Than 150 Attend Field Youth Conference in Russia

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Carl McCann, NYI Co-Vice President for Eurasia, preached each evening on the conference theme, "To see God, to hear God, to know God." Most of the participants named these services as the highlight of the event.

"I started to cry [one evening], but I couldn't because I had to translate," said Korotkov. "[Carl] was talking about freedom, about purifying, cleansing. They were almost the last words of the sermon. I was crying not only for myself, but also for others, because I know we really need this message. I know many Christians that go to church, but do not believe in God personally."

That personal relationship is exactly what leaders hoped to reinforce at the event, a goal that many students said was achieved in their lives.

"The purpose was to help young people understand God, and if they've

somehow lost their relationship with God, to find God again in their lives and renew that relationship," said Igor Rybalko from Ukraine, NYI Field Representative and one of the organizers of the conference. "It's not just about seeing God, but responding to him."

Daily seminars provided teaching and discussion on issues like prayer, compromise, relationships, creativity in ministry, and leadership. Each of the churches contributed creatively to worship services, and the youth of the CIS found ways to worship in their own style through dramas, worship teams, videos and a choreographed flag presentation. They came together for small group discussions and games and for a late-night bonfire.

"Here, I felt like everyone was one body," said Rybalko. "It was great, it was amazing—it was God working through their lives."

The final service closed with youth writing individual prayers to God and

nailing them symbolically to a cross. The group celebrated the Lord's Supper together, then carried on with the evening worship until 1 a.m. Several of the students stayed up talking for the rest of the night. Since tradition has been to gather for events like these once every two years, every minute to spend time together counted.

"I met people at [the last NYC]," said Vika from Kazakstan, "but this time I really made friends."

As for sleep?

Well, there was still the trip home.



District Leaders Consult on Development



eurasia region communications

The Netherlands—Twenty Nazarene leaders met in the Netherlands May 9-12 with the purpose of exchanging experiences about the development of missional districts in the Eurasia Region. The meeting, organized as a “District Development Consultation” included six District Superintendents from the USA and Canada, six District Superintendents from Europe, and the Field Strategy Coordinators for Eurasia. Franklin Cook, former Eurasia Regional Director, and a consultant in the meeting stated that, “in all my years of global ministry, this is the first time that I see an exchange of this magnitude where District Superintendents from North America and Eurasia meet to learn together about the district as a missional entity in the structure of the Church of the Nazarene.”

Several important outcomes resulted from this historic consultation. Based on their experience as missional leaders, all district superintendents presented the models they have employed to transform their districts into “missional movements” resulting in growth, health, and sustainability. Leaders also provided use-

ful insights for defining healthy districts and healthy churches so that other districts in the region can apply similar principles within their ministries.

One of the highlights of the consultation was the presentation of Rev. Diwakar Wankhede, District Superintendent of the India Western Maharashtra District, and a guest speaker at the consultation. Wankhede shared with the participants the vision that all 14 districts in South Asia have embraced and which, they pray, will double their growth in the next five years. According to Gustavo Crocker, Eurasia Regional Director and convener of the meeting, “when our districts catch the missional vision of the Church, and when we all focus on the Great Commission through the local church, everybody wins: districts are healthier, churches are alive, and our missional delivery systems get strengthened.”

The outcomes of the meeting will be used for the implementation of a regional “District Development Initiative” that will assist districts of all phases in moving towards health, sustainability and replicability.

From the RD

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healthy district and a healthy church. We pray that these meetings will result in models that will help us be intentional, strategic and effective, as we obey Christ’s command to “go and make disciples.”

And, I don’t know when you celebrate it, but in my home country of Guatemala, in America and here in Germany, May is also the month when we celebrate Mother’s Day. To all of you, our beloved mothers, may the Lord bless you and grant you the desires of your hearts!

Gustavo Crocker

South Asia’s New FSC



South Asia was introduced to its new Field Strategy Coordinator during the South Asia Leadership Team (SALT) meetings last month. Rev. Ron and Dianna Gilbert are expected to arrive on 1 September, working out of Sri Lanka. The Gilberts have extensive missionary and pastoral experience. Ron will serve as the assistant Field Strategy Coordinator, and Diana will be responsible for field finance and administration. The Gilberts will replace Dr. Daniel and Mrs. Carol Ketchum who have returned to the United States upon Dr. Ketchum’s election as General NMI Director.

SANBC: 100 More Students Poised to Graduate in Coming Year



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International guests for this year’s graduation included Dr. Jerry Lambert, Commissioner of Education; World Mission Director Dr. Louie Bustle, Eurasia Regional Director Dr. Gustavo Crocker, General NMI Director Dr. Daniel Ketchum, and Point Loma Nazarene University President Dr. Bob Brower, among others.

More than 350 guests gathered in the Frontier Management Center in Bangalore, India for the celebration. The graduates were dressed in ivory kurta

robes, and were presented with a clerical stole, designed for the occasion, which will be re-presented to them on the occasion of their ordination—a symbol of their servant leadership and ministry.

Over the last seven years or so, education in South Asia has radically changed from a campus-based program to a decentralized one. The student enrollment has risen from 12 to more than 1,200. The curriculum has been standardized and produced in a dozen languages. The faculty serving this endeavor has climbed from three to more than 100.

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13

Upcoming Events

- 6 - 9 June • Regional Directors' Meetings
Büdingen, Switzerland
- 6 - 7 June • EuNC Graduation
Büdingen, Switzerland
- 6 June • Regional Communications
Center Dedication
Büdingen, Switzerland
- 19 - 23 June • Global FSC Meetings
Kansas City, Missouri
- 5 June - 17 July • Youth in Mission Teams
Bramley, England
Cramlington, England
Frankfurt, Germany
Belfast, Northern Ireland
Palermo, Italy
Ljubljana, Slovenia
Colombo, Sri Lanka
- 2 - 6 August • SE Europe Field NYC
Strumica, Macedonia

Hatton NCM Center Dedicated in Sri Lanka



On 3 May, Nazarene Compassionate Ministries of Sri Lanka dedicated a training and rehabilitation center to provide

long-term support for victims of the tsunami of December 2004. Gustavo Crocker (Regional Director), Hermann Gschwandtner (South Asia NCM Coordinator) and Ron Gilbert (South Asia Field Strategy Coordinator) joined with leaders from the South Asia Field and Nazarenes from local churches in Sri Lanka for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a celebration service. The center is located near Hatton in the mountains of Sri Lanka and is surrounded by the Nazarene Tea Estate, which provides jobs and helps to finance the NCM ministries of the center. It serves as a training facility for NCM leaders and as a retreat and counseling center for individuals, especially children, who continue to struggle with the long-term effects of the tsunami disaster and the loss of family members.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray for the youth on the CIS Field as the events of this month's youth conference have the potential to impact their lives and ministry in local churches. Pray for continued unity among them and increased wisdom among youth leadership as their ministry continues to develop across the field.
- Pray for new graduates of SANBC as they enter into a new chapter of their lives. Pray that the school will continue to consistently and faithfully equip developing leaders for lives of service, and that God will raise up additional leadership as the body continues to grow throughout South Asia.
- Pray that district leaders across the region will have wisdom and inspiration as they seek to support the growth of healthy, sustainable churches in their areas.
- Pray for the seven Youth in Mission teams that will be arriving on the region this month, and for the communities in which they will be living and serving over the coming weeks. Pray that God will open hearts in these communities and that the teams will communicate hope in Christ to people wherever they are sent.

Where Worlds Meet is the monthly e-newsletter for the Eurasia Region of the Church of the Nazarene. To subscribe, please e-mail the editor at whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org

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EURASIA REGION

Responding to the Great Commission, the mission of the Eurasia Region of the Church of the Nazarene is to develop an indigenous, interdependent, self-supporting, holiness church in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition.

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