



Region Delivers Weekly 'Snapshots'

*Web site redesigned and
given new address*

In February, Eurasia Region Communications launched a new weekly e-mail update called "Eurasia Region Snapshots." The short stories are sent on Mondays to those who subscribe to this monthly newsletter, creating one more way Nazarenes may rapidly connect to what God is doing in the region.

In addition, the regional Web site was redesigned and now resides at a new address: www.eurasiaregion.org.

The new site contains all the original articles and newsletters, resources and information that existed on the first incarnation of the site, but in a new look and format.

If you do not already subscribe to *Where Worlds Meet* and would like to receive the weekly releases and monthly newsletter, send an e-mail to whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org or submit your name and e-mail address in the *Where Worlds Meet* subscription area at www.eurasiaregion.org. ♦

Team Players

Church reorganizes for ministry in Bulgaria



photo courtesy Petar Neychev

A new team of nine, made up of Bulgarians and missionaries, reorganized leadership responsibilities at the Church of the Nazarene in Sofia, and reformatted the worship services.

The Sofia Church of the Nazarene, founded in 1995, recently reorganized its leadership and worship service.

Led for years by a bivocational pastor, it was determined that the weight of leadership would be less heavy if spread among a team, said Jay Sunberg, superintendent for the Bulgaria District.

Galin Ivanov, the former lead pastor, is now among the nine leaders who plan worship services and Wednesday night prayer meetings, youth activities, outreach ministries and other tasks. The team is a mix of Bulgarians and missionaries, including Jessica Morris, a missionary who recently was reassigned to Bulgaria from Italy, and was a key organizer of the relaunch.

Being part of a team, rather than carrying the weight of leadership alone, is a refreshing change, said Ivanov, who has pastored the church since 2003.

"Before, I was kind of lonely lead-

ing worship and preaching and doing everything," he said. "I like to be part of a good team like we are now. It doesn't feel like I gotta do everything myself."

The reformatted worship service features a worship team leading contemporary songs in Bulgarian, testimonies, prayer, a Scripture reading, a sermon and prayer, followed by fellowship over treats and coffee.

Afterward, the congregation of roughly 25 separates by age groups for discipleship lessons.

"All of us preach every now and then, or we do discipleship lessons after the

service, so we're all participating quite actively," said Petar Neychev, who is also on the leadership team. "But the responsibility is not for everything on one person as it has been for many years."

Services and discipleship are held in the afternoon because the congregation rents space in another church's building. Plans are developing to construct a Naza-

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**"We're excited about
how all this will enable
us to make a bigger
impact in Sofia."**

**--Jay Sunberg
Bulgaria District Superintendent**

North East India District rebuilds fire-ravaged center



photos courtesy Rev. Kim



Young people gather to clean up the fire-ravaged North East India District Center, which was burned down in January by disgruntled members of the community.

Churches immediately sent volunteers and donations to clean up and build a temporary office.

Manipur, India—A crowd gathered in the darkening streets of a town in Manipur, cheering the procession of believers carrying torches that illuminated the twilight.

The warmly glowing tongues of fire symbolized the light of hope that came to this part of the northeast when missionaries first arrived bearing the Gospel in 1910.

In January, Nazarenes joined the interdenominational Christian community to celebrate 100 years of faith in Jesus Christ.

As the torches proceeded through the streets, flames of a different form licked at the North East India District Center in another part of town.

While everyone was occupied at the celebration, seven men wearing masks forced their way into the building, threw petrol on the furniture and files, and set fire to the center. The building burned to the ground, destroying documents, receipts, a block making machine and some JESUS Film equipment -- an \$8,500 loss.

The lost documents and equipment somewhat slowed district ministry, particularly Nazarene Youth International (NYI), Nazarene Missions International (NMI), and Sunday School ministries, said District Superintendent Rev. Kim. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) has continued without interruption.

Fortunately, most of the JESUS Film equipment was being used in the field, thereby avoiding its loss.

The attack united believers in the community, Kim added.

“The church community has strongly

condemned the act of the members who did this. Some of those who had silently supported came out boldly against them to condemn their various agendas and acts even before this fire incident.”

Originally, the district intended to seek reparations from the community leaders who would in turn hold the attackers responsible. However, district leadership decided against it, as the formal complaint process would require locking up the church until the case was closed.

Even so, community leaders have assured Rev. Kim they will deal with the attackers and ensure the men do no further harm.

The district immediately began building a temporary structure for continued

ministry. The project has united the church.

“People have developed a renewed burden for the Lord and His church,” Kim said. “All who truly love God and the church have come forward with donations and contributions in cash and labor. Those churches a further distance have sent their donations. So it is really encouraging to see the work progressing faster than expected.” ♦



Top right: A block-making machine was among the equipment destroyed in the fire. Below: Volunteers mixed mud plaster to put up the temporary district center's new walls.

South Asia

in snapshots



Right: Children pack into a newly-dedicated Child Development Center (CDC) in Sri Lanka.



Above: From 22-25 October, 20 Nepali leaders gathered for the third Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) event held in South Asia and India. Other trainings were held for 35 leaders from the East and West Tamil Nadu Districts (15-18 October), and five leaders from Pakistan (20-21 October).

Below: A Work & Witness team from the Church of the Nazarene in White Stone, Virginia, U.S., partners with church members in Nepal 6 to 21 November to continue constructing the Kathmandu Ministry Center in the country's capital. The center will be used for compassionate ministries, pastor's education and other ministries. The team resulted from the South Asia Partnership.

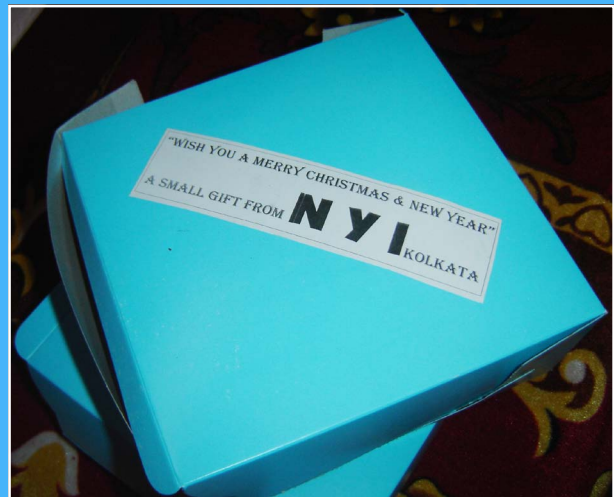


Left: Newly-delivered Bible Story Cloths provide Sri Lankan pastors with a visual aid for sharing different elements of the Bible with others. Each cloth has 50 illustrations of scenes from the Old Testament and 50 from the New Testament. The pastors and teachers have supplementary written stories to guide their presentation of the stories on the cloths. The cloths are used in follow-up work after JESUS Film showings, and at local churches and NCM Child Development Centers; they are especially effective among people who do not read. Each set costs \$20. The South Asia Partnership is raising funds to get a set into every church in South Asia.

Children's Christmas Program in Kolkata



Top left: NYI from the South Sinthi Church of the Nazarene in Kolkata hosted a Christmas program for the community on 26 December. The event involved music, a drama of the birth of Jesus, and a dance drama. Top right: Youth from the church packaged gift boxes for more than 1,500 children as part of the church's annual Christmas gift to children in the city. Left: A child says thanks for receiving a Christmas package from the NYI members. Right: The Christmas boxes included fruit, snacks and small toys. Photos and information courtesy Amitava Chatterjee.



Left: Thousands gathered for the Christmas drama and music performed by South Sinthi Church of the Nazarene in Kolkata, India on 26 December. The children presented a live nativity and the church shared God's plan for reconciliation with everyone through Jesus.

“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.”

Philippians 2:1-2

Upcoming Events

23 March • SANBC graduation

District Assemblies

5 & 6 March • Germany

10 March • Hungary

12 & 13 March • British Isles South

14 & 15 March • British Isles North

17 March • Ukraine

19 & 20 March • Russia South

19 & 20 March • The Netherlands

21 March • Scandinavia

24 March • Bangladesh

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Sofia: Ready to focus outward



Photo courtesy: Petar Neychev

Sofia Church of the Nazarene's new leadership team held a retreat last fall to outline the vision and ministry goals for the church, determine team member roles and discuss new worship service format.

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rene church on land the district owns. The plans call for the new church to also house the district center offices.

Although the congregation has needed to focus inward on its relaunch, they are ready to again turn outward to the community, Ivanov said.

“I think it’s time for us to shift and go out inviting people to activities where they will feel comfortable,” he said.

With Easter coming up, the church will plan some outreach activities to involve neighbors and community members, Sunberg said.

“We’re very excited about the whole direction of how everything is going in Sofia – the team approach,” he added. “We’re excited about how this will enable us to make a bigger impact in Sofia.” ♦

Prayer Requests

- Nazarene Missions International (NMI) encourages Nazarenes to join together in prayer during Nazarene World Week of Prayer, 28 February to 6 March. This annual focus of prayer occurs during the World Day of Prayer (the first Friday in March). During this week Nazarenes intercede for our church and our world. Specific requests from throughout our denomination are sent twice a week through the NMI Prayer Mobilization Line. To subscribe for this e-mail, visit <http://nazarenemissions.org/pmlsubscribe.aspx>.
- Pray for the Church of the Nazarene in Sofia to find ways to attract people to God's unconditional love through their ministry. Pray that the church grows, and plans for the new church and district center are fruitful.
- Pray for the district superintendent and leaders in the North East India District as they rebuild their center and ministry. Pray that those who burned down the center will seek forgiveness and be reconciled with the church. Pray for the church to be empowered with forgiveness, and that God would be glorified in the community through this situation.

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 or visit www.eurasiaregion.org

Where Worlds Meet welcomes stories, photos and prayer requests. Please e-mail submissions to whereworldsmeet@eurasiaregion.org

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