Dear Friends of EuNC,

Spring greetings from EuNC! We trust that you are enjoying the presence of the Lord in your lives! God is good! We hope you enjoy some of the goodness EuNC is experiencing right now as you read this newsletter. Because we want to “stay in touch” with you even better, you have the chance to join our own EuNC group on Facebook. Once you log in, search for European Nazarene College.

New Online Program Launched

We are glad to share with you that the first EuNC online course in German has recently started with Klaus Arnold teaching Introduction to College Studies. Later in April, Rev. Thomas Vollenweider (Berlin), will teach a course titled God’s Mission and the Church. And this fall, Peter Ullinger, theologian from the Gelnhausen Church of the Nazarene, will be teaching Introduction to the New Testament. In the first course we have eleven students (one of the students is in Austria!). We hope and pray that God will use this new tool to help train persons for the ministry as we share the gospel in a world in great need!

Varied Experiences During Internship

Gideon de Jong, Netherlands

I interned at Rotterdam Church of the Nazarene in the Netherlands District. Two of my emphases were Christian education and urban ministry.

I loved visiting people at home, to see how they lived. It was enriching and told me a whole lot about them. At the end of each visit, I proposed we pray together. So often, we talk about God and the church, but so seldom, we pray together. In prayer, I have experienced fellowship and growth towards one another.

Also, the Rotterdam Church has two urban ministries, the food bank and the clothes bank. I talked with the clients and was touched by the willingness of so many different volunteers to come every single Friday. It did not matter at all that volunteers came from different denominations. I felt ashamed to see that fellow citizens of mine do not have enough money to feed themselves and are hungry. I expected to see a lot of shame and sadness on the faces of the clients, but to my own surprise, I did not see any shame at all and did not see as much sadness as I expected. I am privileged and have been inspired to see what true fellowship and care look like.
Wolfgang Köhler, Germany

This February, I did a one-month internship in the Church of the Nazarene in Seligenstadt, Germany. It was a good experience where I could get to know the dynamics of church life. I also got to know myself better. Some of the things I was involved in were preaching, youth group, home groups and Bible studies.

I still remember the first Sunday I showed up in church and was introduced to the congregation. The pastor asked me: What do you expect from this time? I said: I hope to see how God is active among the people here in this church. Well, I must say that during my time I could see exactly that. I got to know many people and could hear their stories of how God transformed their lives. Nevertheless, this is not a thing of the past, but it is happening here and now, and it was the most amazing thing for me to witness that.

Rebekka Regehr, Germany

I did my internship in Ukraine, where I learned more about children's ministry. I participated in organizing Sunday school, lived in an orphanage for a week, looked into working with street kids for a weekend, and lived in a foster home. It was very moving for me to hear about the background of the children, whose parents most of the time are drug addicts or alcoholics. Furthermore, many of the children already have AIDS or other sicknesses.

Caring for these children and giving them a new chance in life is very challenging. I observed the leaders very often face situations where they do not have an answer or do not know how to react. It is impossible to be completely prepared for ministry, as it is full of surprises and unexpected turns. I learned that there is no such thing as a formula to any kind of ministry. The minister is totally dependent on God, to give him/her wisdom, to send support, and to have influence through his Holy Spirit. He or she has no control over the situation, but needs to surrender his/her life completely to God. Many people during my internship have been an example of such a lifestyle, which was very impacting for me.
EuNC Work & Witness Team in Moncalieri, Italy

Eight students, one staff and one faculty member from the Bübingen campus traveled to Moncalieri, Italy for one-week over Spring Break. In recent years the church has only been open for weekly Sunday services while other activities have been limited. The connection to the local neighborhood has been weak, but the church’s new hope is to be more open and engaged with the community.

With this in mind, the visiting team had their assignments: they would work on cleaning up the church in- and outside and give two concerts to get the neighbors into the church. They cleaned, prepped and painted basement walls, cleared the sidewalk, pruned back shrubbery, and helped install a new church sign. With these improvements, the church quickly gained visibility, and now the neighbors can easily see when there is activity at the church.

And, observing everything, the neighbors became curious. Some came and watched; others came inside the building to help “supervise” the work. One man who saw them cleaning decided to help. As people stopped by, Joel Mullen, the co-pastor of the church, would introduce himself and eventually people would start inquiring about the church. Carla Zabala Vidaurre, one of the students on the trip said “They would see us working in the hot sun and once they even threw some cake from the balcony!”

On Saturday evening, after a morning of working, the students put on the first Easter concert for the church. Twenty-eight people came; twenty of these were first-time visitors. Following the service Easter Sunday, they held the second evening concert. After each, they shared and snack and fellowship time with those attending. They also spent several days visiting and sharing meals with church members.

“It’s all about trust and building relationships. We realized how important it is to start these relationships before forming a church,” Vidaurre added. “We think we need to do great things, but a little thing like painting a fence is a big thing. Little things make big differences. Every night, I went to bed really tired, but I wouldn’t mind waking up early the next day and doing it all over again because I was doing it for God. We were doing the job for Him.”
Dutch Youth Weekend

A major part of the annual event is the fellowship: making new friends, being reunited with old ones, catching up and creating new “NYI legends”.

This fellowship is the key element for most of the attendants. It was seen in the games that were played, but mostly in the way they were there for each other. During this weekend people drew together to share. This happened on all age levels, the younger (teens up to the age of sixteen) enjoy a bit more guidance in this, the older group (sixteen to twenty) was able to do this with more freedom.

Though the younger teens had some trouble adjusting themselves to the older group, the overall response was very positive. It was very good to see God working in some untraditional ways. It is so important for young people to see that there is another way of treating others.

Please prayerfully remember these young people, who form the new generation of the church here in Holland. God works through them, allowing them to help one another in a very touching way. It is undeniable that some major choices are made in this part of their lives. Please pray that these choices might be lead by a conscious awareness of God’s loving presence.

Ordinations and Graduations of EuNC Alumni all over Europe

Even though official graduation of EuNC isn’t until June, we have already graduated three persons in our learning centers. These three are Landi Ndreka in Albania (November 2009); Gennady Ogay in Kazakhstan (March 2010) and Ara Kodzhoyan in Armenia (April 2010). All three graduated with the Christian Ministry Certificate.

We also had two ordinations and we are glad that we can share this special moment of our alumni.

Landi Ndreka in Albania

Gennady Ogay in Kazakhstan

Ara Kodzhoyan in Armenia

Philip Zimmermann in Germany
Courses and Teachers

EuNC not only offers courses at the Büsingen campus, but also in the various learning centres. So far in this academic year, EuNC has offered 120 courses: almost 30% of these were offered off-campus. This means that the EuNC faculty needs to travel from the campus or home learning centre to teach at other locations.

From the campus in Büsingen Jason Veach, John Haines and Antonie Hollemann have travelled to the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal to teach various courses.

The programme in the Netherlands has received John Moore (Hungary) and Jayme Himmelwright (Portugal) as visiting faculty.

In the CIS (Russia; Ukraine; Armenia; Central Asia) Davide Cantarella, Cliff Wright, Olga Druhjinina and Alexei Shipovalov have been travelling to various locations to teach courses.

An example of a creative solution to the issue of travel was developed in the Southeastern Europe Field. A field course was offered in Romania taught by Michael Hudson and then recorded and transmitted via Internet. It was then presented (with translation) in locations in Bulgaria, Albania and Kosova, with each having a facilitator. This was also further supported by online discussions between class sessions.

These are just some examples of how EuNC is thinking creatively to face the challenges of finance and travel. EuNC is very thankful for faculty who are willing to travel to teach courses, many times on top of their normal load.

Greetings from the Rector

After a long winter, we are glad to see the signs of spring: flowers blooming, birds singing, more sunshine, and the days are getting longer. As the seasons change, we are reminded of God’s grace and faithfulness to His creation, which He promised to Noah and his descendants: “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” (Genesis 8:22)

It is our task to share the grace and faithfulness of God with our world! As you have read the articles in this issue of “EuNC…in touch”, we hope you are inspired by what God is doing in and through the lives of our students.

We wish you a blessed spring season filled with God’s presence!

Klaus Arnold, Rector