Dear Friends of EuNC,

Advent greetings to all who are staying in touch with European Nazarene College. The last newsletter of this year looks different. A big “Thank You” to Gideon de Jong who has helped us with the new template!

This issue is filled with exciting news, but also with an announcement that brings about more change for our school. We are reminded in this season that the Lord is on His way – He is aware of all those who are in need and long for light and direction and look for His intervention. That is what we are praying for – for our personal lives, for our college, for our Church, and for the whole world! Please continue to pray for European Nazarene College – and thanks for staying in touch!

**Accreditation Granted!**
European Nazarene College has received accreditation status for its two programmes Certificate in Spiritual Formation and Diploma in Christian Ministry (formerly called Certificate in Christian Ministry). The European Evangelical Accrediting Association (EEAA) council made this decision in their November meeting.

We greatly rejoice in that because it marks a highlight in a process that started in May 2011. Lots of work, many hours and much paper have been invested – but it is worth it! The Diploma in Christian Ministry programme contributes to fulfilling the requirements for ordination in the Church of the Nazarene on the Eurasia Region – which is at the centre of our mission and ministry.

**Academic Dean Resigns**
Antonie Holleman is resigning as Academic Dean of EuNC following the Faculty Assembly (2nd February 2013). The Zaanstad Church of the Nazarene has announced the nomination of Antonie and Wilma as co-pastors. Upon favourable ballot of the membership they will return to pastoral ministry this coming summer after seventeen years of service to European Nazarene College.

This announcement is probably a big surprise for many of you – but the Hollemans have shared their sense of God’s guidance into the pastoral ministry for
some time already. Antonie wrote in a letter to faculty, staff and board: “To those of you who know me well this may not be a complete surprise because I have always missed being a pastor. This longing increased when, during the final phase of her studies, Wilma also sensed a call to pastor. Since then a desire to co-pastor in the Netherlands has filled our hearts. Following the invitation to consider a pastorate in the Netherlands, I wrestled with my responsibilities at EuNC, and after weeks of prayer and reflection I felt released from my position as Academic Dean. It became clear to me that the time was ripe for change, for me personally but also for the school. At the same time, the conversations with the church’s search committee confirmed our conviction that God was leading us into a new ministry.”

Upon favourable vote, Antonie and Wilma Holleman will remain in Büsingen until summer and continue as faculty of EuNC, especially in helping in this transitional period. And even after returning to the Netherlands, they are planning to stay involved with EuNC in some form, particularly through the Netherlands Learning Centre. More information on the Hollemans’ transition will follow in the coming months. At this time we would ask for your prayers for them and for EuNC!

**Video-Conferencing Unites Teaching Locations in Russia Learning Centre**
In the last six months distances in Russia have gotten a lot smaller. This is neither because the country has shrunk, nor because someone came up with a faster means of transportation to shorten travel time across the immense and wild Russian territory. Yet EuNC students and teachers in Russia can say that they are a lot closer now than they ever were before. And it’s because of Vidyo, the video-conferencing system EuNC uses to communicate.
Distance has always been one of the many difficulties in delivering education in Russia. There are groups of students distributed across some of the main cities of Western Russia, but they are hundreds of kilometres apart. Also, most teachers live in the north and cannot always spend extended time with the students located in the south. In the past, students were brought together in the summer for four weeks of residential, intensive courses, but in the last few years students have found it difficult to be gone from their ministries, family and work places for so long.

Vidyo has provided a valid, more flexible solution to the problem. In the spring semester, Tanya and Davide Cantarella co-taught Spiritual Formation to students in Moscow, Chaltyr and Volgograd. This was the first time, and both of them were very hesitant about the way things would turn out. To their surprise, however, the students at the end of the class were rather enthusiastic. They had been able to take a class, interact with the teachers and other students, and without leaving their place of work and ministry.

This positive experience convinced everyone that this was an avenue worth exploring further. So, in November Tatiana Cantarella started teaching a class on leadership. Twenty-one students enrolled in the class, most of whom are located at least a thousand kilometres from the teacher’s location. “It’s a unique opportunity to have an incredible variety of students that would be impossible otherwise,” says Tatiana, “and it’s great to have the opportunity to listen to each other and share with each other insights about the class.” At times there are hiccups in the connection. Every once in a while a group may get disconnected for a short time. It has also happened that a group may have difficulties getting the connection back. In order to limit the impact of the shortfalls of technology, lectures are usually also video-recorded and then posted online so that students can easily catch-up on what they missed within a couple of days.
“Of course the system is not perfect”, commented CIS Education Coordinator Davide Cantarella, “but it is a huge step forward in delivering education to the students right there where they are, in a flexible format that is both personal and effective. With the growth and development of internet infrastructure in Russia, it can only get better.”

So, the use of technology is moving education forward in Russia and in the CIS. The experience with video-conference in Russia will soon spread to other Learning Centres on the Field and will increase the flexibility of the delivery system and frequency of course offered. At the same time, the opportunities to serve students from a distance continue to place a great responsibility on the teachers’ shoulders. Microsoft founder Bill Gates is credited as having said that, “Technology is just a tool. In terms of getting the kids working together and motivating them, the teacher is the most important.” Encouraging and motivating students will always have to be a priority, which is only made more difficult by distance. Yet, knowing that a video call between students and teacher is only one click away can increase out-of-class interaction and mentorship, as well as create stronger ties across Teaching Locations, Districts, and Learning Centres.

Technology is just a tool. Yet, if used well, it can become a formidable weapon in advancing the mission of EuNC to enable disciples of Christ to participate in the mission of God and serve local communities of faith, in Russia, the CIS and beyond.

Leadership Conference 2013

You are invited to EuNC’s next Leadership Conference in January 2013 (Monday, January 28th – Wednesday, January 30th). **Making a Difference** will be the theme. We are happy to welcome two competent speakers for this important event.

The devotional speaker (morning devotions and evening services) will be **Dr. Daniel Boone**, president of Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville, TN (USA). This will be the third time Dr. Boone will be with us for Leadership Conference. He will address current issues in western societies from a Christian viewpoint.

The seminar speaker is **Dr. Johannes Reimer**, professor of mission studies at the University of South Africa and lecturer in missiology at the Theological Seminary of the Free Evangelical Church in Ewersbach, Germany. Dr. Reimer is a well-known author and speaker in Germany on the topic of the missional church.

The event will be hosted by the Germany Learning Centre (EuNC Deutsch) at the Gelnhausen Church of the Nazarene in Germany. For more information and the online registration form, visit our website at [http://www.eunc.edu/lc-2013/](http://www.eunc.edu/lc-2013/). **Register now!**
A Word from the Rector

As we look back to this past year 2012 – our ups and downs, our victories and our defeats, our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our fears – we are reminded that God has been with us! He never leaves nor forsakes us. These are the “glad tidings” of this Christmas season. His grace, peace, providence, righteousness, faithfulness, and His holy love have become flesh as He dwelled among us in His Son Jesus Christ! The prophet Isaiah expresses this wonderfully, when he writes (Isaiah 9:6-7) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

At the heart of these “glad tidings” is the holy love of God that compels us to share what we have received, for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard. (Acts 4:20) This is what European Nazarene College is all about – preparing men and women to share Jesus Christ with the world!

European Nazarene College wishes you a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2013!

Martina and Klaus Arnold