Dear Friends of EuNC,

As the school year is coming to an end in a few weeks, we want to share one more time about some of the highlights of the past weeks in the life and ministry of European Nazarene College.

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The EuNC Leadership Team and EEAA representatives are taking a well-deserved break during the EEAA reaccreditation visit in Germany in early June.

Theological Conversations Day in Portugal

The first of May is characterized by being a day off for most Portuguese, as they enjoy Labourer’s Day. For Nazarenes, since last year, it is an opportunity to gather and reflect on a specific theme based on a presentation, discuss it in small groups and then present questions to the panel.

This event has been sponsored by the Portugal Learning Centre and the District Ministerial Studies Board to give room for reflection and interaction among God’s people on outstanding issues related to its nature and its God-given mission. This year’s topic was “The Church in the Fulfilment of God’s Creation Purposes” based on a paper presented at the Global Theology Conference 2014 in South Africa. We had the privilege of having its author with us, Dwight D. Swanson, Ph.D., from Manchester. His experience as lecturer and researcher of the Bible and Islam/Qur’an was a meaningful asset to the discussion.

The event’s feedback has been very good, and each time the expectations get higher. Local churches are following up by wrestling with the actual implications of what has been discussed, and a few have even started “theological” times in their congregation. After all, theology – the thinking on God – is not exclusive to theologians. As C.S. Lewis wrote, “Everyone reads, everyone hears things discussed. Consequently, if you do not listen to theology, that will not mean that you have no ideas about God. It will mean that you have a lot of wrong ones--bad, muddled, out-of-date ideas.” (Mere Christianity, chap. “Making and Begetting”).

Raquel Pereira
EuNC reaccredited by EEAA

We are pleased to announce that European Nazarene College was reaccredited by the European Evangelical Accrediting Association (EEAA) on Friday, 2 June 2017. Two representatives of EEAA, Dr. Parush Parushev and Dr. Perry Shaw, formed the Visiting Evaluation Team (VET) and met with the EuNC Leadership Team and others at the Administrative Centre in Linsengericht, Germany. We had very intense meetings and were informed on Friday afternoon that EuNC has been re-accredited. The reaccreditation is valid until 2022.

Overall they were very pleased, given the fact that EuNC is a “different animal” compared to all other schools accredited by EEAA. Five years ago (with the original accreditation) they were still quite sceptical about how EuNC would develop after full decentralisation. Now, after they have “seen it at work”, they said:

1. No other school is fully decentralised and working in 17 different countries and languages with one curriculum, one faculty, one student body, one governance, and one administration.
2. In addition, EuNC functions on the one hand like a church-based training centre and on the other hand as an academic educational institution.

According to the two evaluators, this is not only unique but has great potential for the future, and other schools will very probably follow this example. They asked us to share about EuNC at the upcoming EEAA General Assembly in October 2017 in Athens, Greece, where both Klaus Arnold (Rector) and Fernando Almeida (Director of Curriculum Development and Quality Assurance) will attend.

Let us praise God for this wonderful accomplishment as we continue to serve him and the church and the kingdom of God by fulfilling our mission of enabling Christlike disciples for ministry.

EuNC and Gemeindeakademie at Evangelischer Kirchentag

From 25–27 May 2017 European Nazarene College and the Germany Learning Centre (Gemeindeakademie) were part of the “Nazarene booth” at the Evangelischer Kirchentag in Berlin, Germany. This is a biannual event where Christian denominations in Germany come together to worship, discuss, get to know each other, and share about their ministries. The Church of the Nazarene was present with four organisations: the District, Helping Hands (NCM in Germany), Ichthys (rehabilitation centre for people with addictions), and EuNC (especially Gemeindeakademie).

Eight representatives of these four Nazarene organisations distributed information and spoke to many people who came by. Of the total of about 100,000 visitors at the event, we could make contact with approx. 3,000 people who now know a bit more about the different ministries of the Church of the Nazarene in Germany and worldwide.

One school in many nations: During the reaccreditation visit, the EEAA representatives together with members of the Leadership Team and Curriculum Committee are enjoying a virtual tour of several of EuNC’s Learning Centres as well as meeting students and teachers.