Dear Friends of EuNC,

For many cultures, autumn is the time of Thanksgiving. Even though traditions and customs might vary, people in various countries celebrate Thanksgiving to thank God for His goodness in their lives. In Judaism it is Sukkot, the Feast of Ingathering, that celebrates the goodness that God shows through the harvest. As EuNC we join into the celebration of the kind of plentiful harvest that Jesus talked about in Matthew 9:37. Our purpose as a school is to help find workers that will actually harvest. So we are truly thankful for the graduation of several people involved in ministry in Portugal. We are also grateful for the opportunities to share EuNC and its mission with others, whether it be in Asia, in Spain or through social media. May you be taken into our thankfulness to the Lord of the harvest. He is worthy of all of our praise and commitment which we want to give Him also through the ministry of EuNC. We hope and pray that this newsletter can be a means of that as well.

Germany LC Meeting

Promotion on conferences, feedback from students, accreditation processes, connecting online classes with local ministry and general public relations: A Learning Centre has many topics that need to be discussed, initiated or developed. As important as shorter regular meetings are, it can be very beneficial to take a whole day to plan how to move things forward in the LC. On August 29, the Germany Learning Centre met to gather ideas to promote the LC called “Gemeindeakademie” within Christian circles in Germany. Among other topics the LC also worked on the question of how online classes can meet the need of church members that are not part of a program but still want to receive academic and spiritual input. The inspiring meeting was held by LC Administrator and Coordinator Wolfgang Köhler who reminded the team that “unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain” (Psalms 127:1). It is EuNC’s prayer that He will build the spiritual house of EuNC and all its LCs.

Sharing EuNC with Asia-Pacific Education Leaders

Rector Arnold joined a group of educators and leaders from the Asia-Pacific Region and the USA from 24 to 27 July in the Philippines to explore how to be more effective in missions through theological education in the Church of the Nazarene.

As various models were discussed, Arnold shared the story of European Nazarene College from being a “school for many nations” to becoming a “school in many nations” and its process of decentralisation. The main point was that this might not be the way for every school; however, for EuNC it was an important step in order to fulfill its mission of enabling Christlike disciples for ministry. Throughout history, the church used the parish model where most of the work of ministry is left to a few highly trained professional clergy. The group urged a paradigm change where all believers are trained for the mission. This will require cooperation among the local church, districts, and educational providers. Education must be applicable to local contexts, accessible in local languages, affordable for everyone, and with opportunity for continued growth.

EuNC on Facebook

Where does a decentralised college go to make itself known, transparent and informative? Correct: Besides a newsletter and a website it is also present on Facebook. On August 1, EuNC was able to start its own page. It will serve as a means of sharing current information about EuNC as well as recent stories of Learning Centres. Of course, everyone is invited to share the page on their wall, invite friends or use other ways to make it known to people who might be interested in EuNC. The new Facebook page can be found by people with and without an account.
EuNC In Dialogue With SANBC

During the Summer the Director of Curriculum Development and Quality Assurance, Fernando Almeida, had the opportunity to participate in the Professional Development Seminar for South Asia Nazarene Bible College (SANBC) teachers in Bangladesh and India. The visit happened as the result of the strong partnership between educational providers on the Region that has been created and nurtured through the successive meetings of the Eurasia Educational Council.

The purpose of these events were to help SANBC teachers and leadership to gain further insight about the processes for quality assurance in theological education, taking as a case-study model what is done by EuNC in the delivery of their programmes in Europe. It was a time for reflection and interchange of experiences between the two schools.

During this time a Wesleyan Theological Conference was held at both locations. Papers presented in the Global Theology Conference earlier this year were summarized and then discussed in small groups seeking particular applications to their context, as well as, reflecting on potential challenges that arise from it.

The other important event was the participation on the 20th Anniversary of SANBC at both locations, where Fernando brought greetings on behalf of EuNC to the sister institution and was privileged to bring a word of challenge to the school at the event celebration in India.

Events as these, are always very special as they bring a fresh awareness of the diversity on our Region, and strengthen the partnership in the endeavour of developing leaders for the church in Eurasia, through the delivery of quality theological education.

By Fernando Almeida
(Director of Curriculum Development and Quality Assurance)

Graduation in Portugal

On October 5, the Portugal Learning Center experienced its first graduation of three students with the Diploma in Christian Ministry. Besides these, another student graduated with the Certificate in Spiritual Formation. Ana Cruz, Flávio Taela, Marco Carvalho and Priscila Guevara celebrated this very special day with their families, local faith communities and friends from all over the country. At the graduation ceremony, Dr. Klaus Arnold spoke on the importance of the word Amen in every disciple’s life, and particularly in this meaningful moment in the life of the graduates. The Portugal Learning Center Coordinator, Rev. João Pedro Pereira, presented the students to be graduated and both EuNC Rector Dr. Klaus Arnold as well as Board of Trustees chair, Mr. Piet Boekoud, handed the certificate and the diplomas to the graduates. The graduation and banquet took place at Arribas Hotel in Praia Grande, Sintra and its facilities were decorated with hearts to lead the participants’ reflection to one of the values of EuNC as the Learning Centre theme for this new academic year: being a community of gratitude.

By Priscila Guevara
(Portugal Learning Centre Administrator)
Networking At the Spain District Camp

Last August, Liliana and Fernando Almeida, who are the Spain Learning Centre Administrator and Coordinator, had the opportunity to participate at the Spain District Camp.

This is an annual event that always brings a lot of excitement among local churches in Spain, as an opportunity of reuniting the District family for a time of spiritual reflection and development.

For the Learning Centre this is a time to network with people. Many of EuNC students participate in the camp either just attending, or as part of the group of leaders and counsellors. Thus, Fernando and Liliana spent some time with current students both individually, and as a group, to bring some encouragement and guidance for the new academic year.

But this is also an event for promoting and dialoguing with potential new students to bring some clarity to their questions and expectations regarding the programmes offered by EuNC.

It was an encouraging event. As we can see God moving among His church to raise new leaders, and then people responding in obedience, by taking the step of faith of starting their studies with EuNC.

By Fernando and Liliana Almeida
(Spain Learning Centre Administrator and Coordinator)