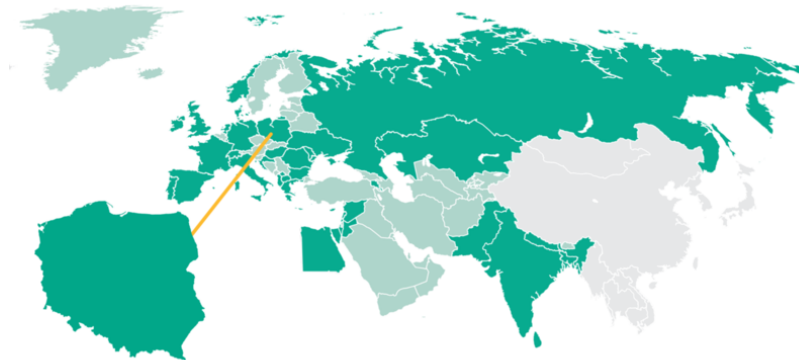


# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

1 February 2023

## Eurasia Region



## Poland

The work of the Church of the Nazarene began officially in Poland in 1999, though there had been overtures to the Polish government for entry and to start Nazarene work as early as the mid-1980s, prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall that separated East from West. The seeds planted in many visits in the 1980s helped to lay groundwork and provide positive name association with the Church of the Nazarene, which helped to prepare the way for the work in this former Eastern Bloc nation that had for so long been tied to a hardline Communist Soviet Union. In the 1980s the work being considered was compassionate ministries to help provide medical and social aid in rural areas where no government programs were available. Today's work in Poland is much engaged in Compassionate Ministries along its borders with Ukraine, as you will read in the story below. The story of the role Poland would play in the 2020s could not have been imagined in the 1980s, but God's timing is perfect, and now the Church of the Nazarene in Poland is critical to the transformation stories of many who are crossing her borders today.



86 members



1 Fully Organized Churches and 1 Not Yet Fully Organized Church. Poland is a part of the Scandinavia district, which includes Denmark and Norway



On the Scandinavia district, there is 1 District Licensed and 6 Ordained Ministers

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## PRAYER



- Pray that God would continue to strengthen the Polish church as it seeks to minister to Ukrainian refugees crossing the borders, fleeing the war in Ukraine.
- Pray for those who volunteer to go and serve in Poland to support the war-weary who are manning the train station at the border.

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## PRAISE



- We praise God for His call upon the lives of those who are serving both the church in Poland and the refugees from Ukraine at this critical time.
- We praise God for the stories of transformation coming out of the war between Russia and Ukraine and the compassionate touch of Polish Nazarenes and those from around the world who are going to help in this crisis.



In Przemysł, Poland, the global Church of the Nazarene has been responding since the onset of war in Ukraine.

When the war broke out, the first Nazarene responder at the Polish-Ukrainian border was a Syrian pastor, seeking ways to serve. Soon after, a team formed, putting out the call for volunteers to come and physically provide resources to the hundreds of thousands of people fleeing their homes.

In Arizona, USA, Ukrainian Ira Petersen immediately knew that she needed to go.

“The help ‘path’ was kind of obvious,” Ira says. “Get as close as possible to Ukraine and Ukrainians. I couldn’t just sit and watch from the distance when I could actually do something.” Through Nazarene Compassionate Ministries’ presence at the border train station in Przemysł, Poland, Ira says, “God showed the direction and opened the door.”

Since then, a steady stream of Nazarenes from Ireland, France, Bulgaria, England, the United States, South Africa, and beyond have flowed from their homes toward the tiny train station flooded with people in crisis. Students, families, professors, nurses, farmers, and pastors have all found a place to serve those fleeing the danger of war. Some haul suitcases up and down hundreds of flights of stairs, providing a moment of relief from a heavy burden. Some brew pot after pot of steaming tea, offering warmth within bitterly cold outdoor lines to passport control. Some sit and color with the littlest travelers, giving weary moms the chance to recharge a phone or repack a bag or simply rest in a chair.

Whatever their role, these Nazarene believers are answering the call to provide the ministry of presence in a moment of pain.

“This group of people had their safety and humanity taken from them,” says Caleb Sandlin, who lives in Missouri, USA. “I chose to volunteer on the border because I believe that’s what Christ would have done. I chose to volunteer on the border because I am a servant of Christ, and I refuse to not share the love of Christ with those in need.”

Matteo Ricciardi, of Italy, knew the call for volunteers was meant for his own ears. “I was moved by God to help,” Matteo says. “When we pray that God gives us ways to serve him and opportunities like these come to our attention, the response can only be to commit one’s strength, invest one’s time, and share grace.”

“Here at the border,” Ira says, smiling, “We have people that speak English with many accents, Ukrainian, Russian, and a lot of different languages. But,” she continues, “the language of love, language of care—anybody who cares and loves, they know that language and they could show it, they could share it.”

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to use your gifts in communication and youth ministry to support the work in the Central Europe Field while living in Poland?  
For more information, click [here](#).

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